

'Russian' to Judgment



Fireworks fly at Moscow protest of election fraud

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin speaks during his meeting with supporters in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011. Putin said he's satisfied with the performance of his party in Russia's parliamentary election even though it lost a significant number of seats, adding that a drop in support is "inevitable" for any ruling party. Police and demonstrators clashed on a central Moscow square during a second day of protests against alleged vote fraud in Russia's parliamentary elections.

(AP Photo/Misha Japaridze)
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Chavez Chuckles



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez laughs after looking at a digitally manipulated Benetton advertising photo of him kissing President Barack Obama, on the iPad of a journalist during a press conference with foreign press members at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011. The Italian fashion label Benetton released last November its advertising campaign 'Unhate', with pictures of global leaders kissing.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez had a good laugh when he discovered that a Benetton advertisement shows him kissing his U.S. counterpart, Barack Obama.

Chavez said Tuesday the Italian fashion company should send him a tie for Christmas.

Chavez and reporters shared a laugh after a journalist showed him a picture of the advertisement.

Chavez said he wasn't offended.

The campaign's fake photos feature a half-dozen purported political nemeses in lip-locked embraces, including Benedict XVI kissing Egyptian Sheik Ahmed el-Tayeb and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu kissing Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Chavez shrugged off the photo montage as "a good joke." □

Fireworks fly at Moscow protest of election fraud

Continued from front

MANSUR MIROVALEV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Police clashed with demonstrators protesting alleged election fraud in Moscow and at least two other major Russian cities as anger boiled over against strongman Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and his United Russia party.

At least 250 people were detained by police at a protest in downtown Moscow on Tuesday night that included flare-type fireworks thrown at a group of pro-Kremlin youth, said city police spokesman Maxim Kolosvetov.

Russian news agencies reported about 200 were arrested at a similar attempt to hold an unsanctioned rally in St. Petersburg and another 25 in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don.

The Moscow protest ended after around 3 1/2 hours



Opposition activists, left, and members of pro-Kremlin youth movements battle during demonstrations in Triumphal Square in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011. Police clashed Tuesday on a central Moscow square with demonstrators trying to hold a second day of protests against alleged vote fraud in Russia's parliamentary elections.

(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)

and the others were broken up by police.

It was the second consecutive night of large protests in Moscow and St. Petersburg,

an unusually sustained show of indignation as Russian police routinely crack down hard on unauthorized rallies, and protesters

generally take time to regroup for a new attempt. The demonstrations follow Sunday's parliamentary election, in which United

Russia lost a large share of the seats it had held in the State Duma.

The party maintains a reduced majority, but opponents say even that came because of vote fraud.

Local and international election observers reported widespread ballot-stuffing and irregularities in the vote count.

The protesters appear to be both angered by the reported fraud and energized by the vote's show of declining support for Putin and his party, which has strongly overshadowed all other political forces in Russia for the past dozen years.

But pro-Kremlin supporters also put on a pair of large rallies in Moscow, attracting thousands and showing vehement divisions in Russian society. The Moscow protest demonstrated the violent potential of those divisions. □

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Obama strikes populist chord with speech in Kansas

A.G. SULZBERGER

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OSAWATOMIE, Kan. — Venturing into the conservative heartland, President Barack Obama on Tuesday delivered his most pointed appeal yet for using taxes and regulations to level the economic playing field.

"This country succeeds when everyone gets a fair shot, when everyone does their fair share, and when everyone plays by the same rules," he told a crowd packed into a school gymnasium.

Infusing his speech with the type of populist language that has emerged in the Occupy protests around the nation, Obama warned that growing income inequality meant that the United States was undermining its middle class. He said it "gives lie to the promise that's at the very heart of America:Â that this is the place where you can make it if you try."

"This is a make-or-break moment for the middle class, and all those who are fighting to get into the middle class," Obama said as he sought to make an economic case for his re-election next year.

"At stake is whether this will be a country where working people can earn enough to raise a family, build a modest savings, own a home and secure their retirement."

Obama chose this town of 4,500 people where Theo-

dore Roosevelt once laid out the progressive platform he called "A New Nationalism" to make his call for the payroll tax cut and deliver a broader message against the Republican economic agenda. It was his third trip out of Washington in three weeks to press for passage of the payroll tax break set to expire next month.Â Under the Democratic proposal, which Republicans have blocked, the cut that would go to most working Americans would be offset by a surtax on people earning more than \$1 million a year. The speech, and the days of buildup that preceded it, marked the president's most stark attack on the rich so far.

that with the economic recovery still lagging and Republicans in Congress continuing to oppose the president's jobs proposals,



President Barack Obama waves to the crowd before speaking at Osawatome High School in Osawatome, Kan., on Dec. 6, 2011. Obama pushed for the extension of a payroll tax cut in a speech about the economy.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)



A woman holds a sign as President Barack Obama's motorcade passes en route to Osawatome High School in Osawatome, Kan., on Dec. 6, 2011. Obama pushed for the extension of a payroll tax cut in a speech about the economy.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

It reflected a decision by White House and the president's campaign aides

the best course for Obama is to try to present himself as the defender of working

class Americans.

The earlier speeches on the payroll tax took place in swing states. The fact that he brought the message to

after a century of struggle to build a middle class, the country is facing a crucial moment.

"Fewer and fewer of the folks who contributed to the success of our economy actually benefited from that success," he said.

"Those at the very top grew wealthier from their incomes and investments than ever before.Â But everyone else struggled with costs that were growing and paychecks that weren't — and too many families found themselves racking up more and more debt just to keep up."

Republicans, though, portrayed the visit as an effort by a president who failed in his stewardship of the national economy to find a winning argument for re-election. Although the nation's unemployment rate dropped to 8.6 percent last month, no president has been re-elected with an unemployment rate so high. Obama sought to pre-empt the Republican response that he was engaging in class warfare. "This isn't about class warfare," he said.

"This is about the nation's welfare."

The visit was unusual for its setting in a state that he lost handily despite his family rootsÂ here — his mother was born in Kansas — and which does not have a single Democrat holding a statewide elected position.

□

one of the most reliably Republican states shows that Obama and his party are increasingly confident that Democrats have found a message that resonates with voters, one that has placed Republicans in the uncomfortable position of opposing tax cuts.

As he had in previous locations, Obama used the standoff to portray Republicans as more concerned with safeguarding the interests of the wealthy than tending to the needs of a struggling middle class. This speech, however, was cast in broad historical terms, with Obama citing economic statistics to show that



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Clinton to world: Stop gay discrimination

ANNE GEARAN
JULIE PACE

Associated Press
GENEVA (AP)

— The Obama administration has bluntly warned the world against gay and lesbian discrimination, declaring the U.S. will use foreign assistance as well as diplomacy to back its insistence that gay rights are fully equal to other basic human rights. In unusually strong language, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Tuesday compared the struggle for gay equality to difficult passages toward women's rights and racial equality, and she said a country's cultural or religious traditions are no excuse for discrimination.

"Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights," she said. "It should never be a crime to be gay."

Clinton's audience included diplomats from Arab, African and other nations where homosexuality is criminalized or where brutality and discrimination against gay people is tolerated or encouraged.

Many of the ambassadors in the audience responded with stony faces and rushed out of the room as soon as Clinton finished speaking.



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is greeted by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Council Eileen Chamberlain Donahoe, right, after defending the rights of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender persons on Human Rights Day in a speech entitled "Free and Equal in Dignity and Rights," at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, Pool)

President Barack Obama directed the State Department and other agencies to make sure U.S. diplomacy and foreign assistance promote gay rights and fight discrimination. But there are no specific new consequences for poor performers, meaning the directive is more of a challenge to other governments than a threat. In announcing the policy the U.S. did not point to individual countries with specifically poor records on gay rights, although an

annual State Department accounting of global human rights has cited abuses against gays by such friends as Saudi Arabia.

The White House said Tuesday's announcement marked the first U.S. government strategy to combat human rights abuses against gays and lesbians abroad.

The speech in Geneva, home of the United Nations' human rights body, is also part of the Obama administration's outreach to gays

and lesbians, a core Democratic constituency at home. Since taking office, Obama has advocated the repeal of the military's ban on openly gay service members — now accomplished — and has ordered the administration to stop defending a law defining marriage as between one man and one woman.

However, Obama has stopped short of backing gay marriage, saying only that his personal views on the matter are evolving. That position and a long delay repealing the military ban have left some gay supporters disgruntled.

Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney suggested that gay rights should not be a test for U.S. engagement abroad.

"I will be looking (at) foreign aid, whether it meets our national security interests and, number two, whether these nations are friends of ours and are willing to be friendly with us in ways when it matters the most," he said on Fox News Channel. Another Republican presidential candidate, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, went further.

"Promoting special rights for gays in foreign countries is not in America's interests

and not worth a dime of taxpayers' money," a Perry campaign statement said. Clinton said she knows the United States has an imperfect record on gay rights, and she noted that until 2003 some states had laws on the books that made gay sex a crime. But there is no reason to suggest that gay rights are something only liberal, Western nations can or should embrace, she said. She said nothing about gay marriage.

"Gay people are born into and belong to every society in the world," Clinton said. "Being gay is not a Western invention. It is a human reality."

In her most direct challenge to nations with conservative cultural or religious mores, Clinton catalogued abuses such as targeted killings of gays, "corrective rape" of lesbians or forced hormone treatments. She likened the targeting of gays for mistreatment to "honor killings" of women, widow-burning or female genital mutilation, examples of practices the U.S. decries but has not penalized friends, including Afghanistan, for carrying out. "Some people still defend those practices as part of a cultural tradition," she said. □

US warns Alabama police against discrimination

ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department has sent a letter to Alabama police agencies warning them not discriminate against Latinos as they enforce the state's

tough new immigration law.

Assistant Attorney General Thomas Perez, who heads DOJ's civil rights division, sent the letter last week to Alabama's 156 police agencies that receive federal money. Perez warned that agencies risk losing

funding if they violate federal policies that bar discrimination. He also said DOJ officials are monitoring the law's implementation to ensure civil rights violations are avoided.

The Obama administration has sued Alabama to block the law,

which allows local police to detain people suspected of being in the country illegally. Parts of the controversial law have been blocked by a federal judge, but police can still arrest suspected illegal immigrants. □



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Air worker fired over dog offered job

SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press
RENO, Nevada (AP) — The president of the baggage

firm that fired a Reno airport worker in a dispute over the transport of an unhealthy dog says it is of-

fering the woman her job back, with back pay. Airport Terminal Services President Sally Leible told

The Associated Press on Tuesday that she regrets the way the incident was handled. In a telephone interview from the company's St. Louis headquarters, Leible says she hopes Lynn Jones will return to the job she held for the last five years at Reno-Tahoe International Airport.

Jones says she was fired about three weeks ago when she refused her supervisor's orders to put the emaciated hunting dog on a plane bound for Corpus Christi, Texas. Animal welfare workers picked up the animal. It recovered and was eventually returned to its owner. □

Occupy protests move to foreclosed homes

MANUEL VALDES
Associated Press
SEATTLE (AP) — The Occupy Wall Street protests are moving into the neighborhood.

Finding it increasingly difficult to camp in public spaces, Occupy protesters across the United States are reclaiming foreclosed homes and boarded-up properties, signaling a tactical shift for the movement against wealth inequality. Groups in more than 25 cities held protests Tuesday on behalf of homeowners facing evictions.

In Atlanta, protesters held a boisterous rally at a county courthouse and used whistles and sirens to disrupt an auction of seized houses. In New York, they marched through a residential neighborhood in Brooklyn carrying signs that read "Foreclose on banks, not people." Los Angeles protesters rallied around a family of five who plans to reclaim the home they lost six months ago in foreclosure.

"It's pretty clear that the fight is against the banks, and the Occupy movement is about occupying spaces. So occupying a space that should belong to homeowners but belongs to the banks seems like the logical next step for the Occupy movement," said Jeff Ordower, one of



Campers walk between tents at the Occupy Seattle site at Seattle Central Community College Monday, Dec. 5, 2011, in Seattle. Officials at the school will meet with Occupy Seattle representatives on Tuesday to discuss removing the encampment from campus, a school spokeswoman said Monday. The community college won a court ruling last week that paved the way to post eviction notices on the encampment. College trustees have said campers have created security and sanitation problems.

(AP Photo/Elaine Thompson)

the organizers of Occupy Homes.

The events reflect the protesters' lingering frustration over the housing crisis that has sent millions of homes into foreclosure after the burst of the housing bubble that helped cripple the country's economy. Nearly a quarter of all U.S. homeowners with mortgages are now underwater, representing nearly 11 million homes, according to CoreLogic, a real estate research firm.

Protesters say that banks and financial firms own abandoned foreclosed

houses that could be housing people.

Seattle has become a leader in the anti-foreclosure movement as protesters took over a formerly boarded-up duplex last month. They painted the bare wood sidings with green, black and red paint, and strung up a banner that says "Occupy Everything - No Banks No Landlords."

While arrests have already been made in a couple of squatting cases in Seattle and Portland, it remains to be seen how authorities will react to this latest tactic. □

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Pearl Harbor survivors return to ships after death



William H. Muehleib, 89, of Virginia Beach, Va., is a Pearl Harbor survivor. He served in the Army Air Corps and was a 19 year-old private stationed at Hickam Field at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He is the national President of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

(AP Photo/The Virginian-Pilot, Bill Tiernan)

AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press
HONOLULU (AP) — Lee Soucy decided five years ago that when he died he wanted to join his shipmates killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor. Soucy lived to be 90, passing away just last year. On Tuesday, seven decades

after dozens of fellow sailors were killed when the USS Utah sank on Dec. 7, 1941, a Navy diver will take a small urn containing his ashes and place it in a porthole of the ship. The ceremony is one of five memorials being held this week for servicemen who lived through the assault and want their remains placed in Pearl Harbor out of pride and affinity for those they left behind. "They want to return and be with the shipmates that they lost during the attack," said Jim Taylor, a retired

sailor who coordinates the ceremonies. The memorials are happening the same week the country observes the 70th anniversary of the aerial bombing that killed 2,390 Americans and brought the United States into World War II. A larger ceremony to remember all those who perished will be held Wednesday just before 8 a.m. Hawaii time — the same moment the devastating attack began. Most of the 12 ships that sank or were beached that day were removed from

the harbor, their metal hulls salvaged for scrap. Just the Utah and the USS Arizona still lie in the dark blue waters. Only survivors of those vessels may return in death to their ships. The cremated remains of Vernon Olsen, who served aboard the Arizona, will be interred on his ship during a sunset ceremony Wednesday. The ashes of three other survivors are being scattered in the harbor. Soucy, the youngest of seven children, joined the Navy out of high school so he wouldn't burden his

parents. In 1941, he was a pharmacist mate, trained to care for the sick and wounded. He had just finished breakfast that Sunday morning when he saw planes dropping bombs on airplane hangars. He rushed to his battle station after feeling the Utah lurch, but soon heard the call to abandon ship as the vessel began sinking. He swam to shore, where he made a makeshift first aid center to help the wounded and dying. He worked straight through for two days. □

Mom who shot kids, self denied food stamps

PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A Texas woman who for months was unable to qualify for food stamps pulled a gun in a state welfare office and staged a seven-hour standoff with police that ended with her shooting her two children before killing herself, officials said Tuesday. The children, a 10-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl, remained in critical condi-

tion Tuesday. The shooting took place at a Texas Department of Health and Human Services building in Laredo, where police said about 25 people were inside at the time. Authorities identified the mother as Rachelle Grimmer, 38, and children Ramie and Timothy. Grimmer first applied for food stamps in July but was denied because she didn't turn in enough information, Texas Department



Crime Scene tape is posted at the main entrance to the Texas Health and Human Services Offices in Laredo, Texas, Tuesday, Dec., 6, 2011. A Texas woman who for months was unable to qualify for food stamps pulled a gun in a state welfare office and staged a seven-hour standoff with police that ended with her shooting her two children before killing herself, officials said Tuesday. Authorities identified the mother as Rachelle Grimmer, 38, and children Ramie and Timothy. Laredo police investigator Joe Baeza said Grimmer had recently moved to the border city from Zanesville, Ohio, about 30 miles east of Columbus.

(AP Photo/The Laredo Morning Times, Cuate Santos)

of Health and Human Services spokeswoman Stephanie Goodman said. Goodman didn't know what Grimmer specifically failed to provide. In addition to completing an 18-page application, families seeking state benefits also must provide documents proving their information,

such as proof of employment and residency. "We were still waiting, and if we had that, I don't know if she would still qualify or not," Goodman said. Goodman said Grimmer's last contact with the agency appeared to be a phone call in mid-November. □

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This handout photo provided by Karin Pitzel, shows her aunt, Michele O' Dowd, 67, was found dead in her Jacksonville, Fla. home. Patty Michelle White, of York, S.C., who had befriended the victim, is being held in the York County jail on fugitive charges, and was expected to be extradited to Florida to face murder charges.

(AP Photo/Karin Pitzel)

Woman slain, body hidden underneath Christmas presents

MEG KINNARD
SUZETTE LABOY

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP) — A 67-year-old Florida woman was found beaten, strangled and hidden beneath the Christmas presents in her home, and authorities have charged a younger woman who had been befriended by the victim.

Patty Michelle White, 40, of South Carolina, was jailed on on fugitive charges and expected to be extradited Tuesday to Florida to face murder charges, authorities said.

The body of Michele O'Dowd of Florida was discovered Friday by her twin brother, Phil Axt, who had gone to check on her at her home in a gated community after O'Dowd failed to show up for work. □

After months, campaigns bring their ad war to TV

JEREMY W. PETERS

© 2011 New York Times

After months of relative quiet, the Republican presidential candidates have started to ramp up their television advertising, bringing a new competitive dynamic to a fight that has largely remained off the commercial airwaves until now.

The first sustained barrage of broadcast and cable advertisements in early voting states is beginning this week in Iowa and New Hampshire, where Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, Gov. Rick Perry of Texas and Rep. Ron Paul of Texas have all started securing time slots.

Over the last several days, the campaigns have told officials at stations and cable providers that they would commit to spending about \$1 million total on ads. And an independent political group supporting Perry has committed close to \$400,000 more.

Gingrich became the latest to enter the ad skirmish, reserving what his campaign said would be \$250,000 worth of airtime on a new 60-second ad in which he declares over images of Americana that "Working together we can and will rebuild the America we love."

The delayed start to the advertising war — which by this point in the last two presidential election cycles was already in full swing — has been one of the more unforeseen aspects of a campaign season that has had all the other trappings of a highly competitive race: wild poll fluctuations, a fight over coveted endorsements and spirited back-and-forth among the candidates.



An undated handout screen grab from a Rick Perry presidential campaign ad. After months of relative quiet, the Republican presidential candidates have started to ramp up their television advertising, bringing a new competitive dynamic to a fight that has largely remained off the commercial airwaves until now.

(rickperry.org, Inc. via The New York Times)

Analysts said that advertising spending has remained slow for a variety of reasons. But chief among them has been the abundance of televised debates, which have given candidates the kind of wide exposure they would otherwise achieve only by buying commercials.

And with the Iowa caucuses set for Jan. 3, there is little time remaining for candidates to advertise there. Because campaigns are generally wary of advertising around Christmas, when fewer people are watching television and engaged in the campaign, there are only about three weeks left to advertise and reach the most potential voters.

"It's just awful, awful late in the game," said Paul Fredericksen, general manager of KCCI, the CBS station in Des Moines, Iowa, who said his station has been feeling a financial pinch without the expected flow of political dollars coming in. "We anticipated based on previous caucus years that it maybe would have started earlier in the year. You think something's going to happen. And it just doesn't."

In Iowa the situation is influenced by the candidates themselves. Romney, who is sitting on a huge pile of cash, has only recently been devoting significant time and energy to campaigning in the state. And two of the candidates who are the most visible on the ground, Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, do not have the money it requires to be a major presence on the air.

"It's not like we've had all these people with fat bank accounts sitting around waiting to advertise," said Dennis Goldford, a professor of politics at Drake University.

One exception has been Perry, who has not only spent money in the early states like Iowa, but has bought about \$1 million worth of national ads on the Fox News Channel. Buying on Fox only is a strategy Romney has also employed. In recent days, he has reserved \$13,000 worth of time on Fox News in Iowa. Perry's recent ads have shifted from attacking President Barack Obama — a

major theme of advertising by Republican candidates and conservative groups active in this election — to a more biographical, policy-oriented approach.

The ones that will air over the next week in Iowa and New Hampshire are about his faith ("I'm Rick Perry, and I'm not ashamed to talk about my faith," he says) and ending the United States' foreign oil dependency ("I'm an outsider, so I'll step on a few toes if necessary to reopen our oil and gas fields").

Perry's most recent ad buy, however, was small, as his campaign spent just \$89,000 for four days. But an unaffiliated pro-Perry group, Make Us Great Again, has reserved nearly \$400,000 worth of airtime in Iowa and South Carolina for an ad stressing the Texas governor's beyond-the-Beltway credibility. "Washington elites are wrecking America," it says.

Paul has also been a visible presence on the air in Iowa, and his latest buys there and in New Hampshire totaled close to \$400,000. His latest 30-second spot, which is set to hard rock music and boasts that he will cut \$1 trillion from the federal budget, asks: "What's up with these sorry politicians? Lots of bark. But when it's showtime, whimpering like little shih tzus." Paul has also been a considerable presence on the air in New Hampshire, where television stations are only now beginning to see money trickle in from Romney's campaign. Television executives there said they believe that is because unlike in 2007, when he advertised heavily, his name recognition is already high. □

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Bombs kill scores of Shiite worshippers in Afghanistan

ROD NORDLAND

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KABUL, Afghanistan — A

Pakistan-based extremist group claimed responsibility for a series of coordinated attacks aimed at Afghan Shiites on Tuesday, in what many feared was an attempt to further destabilize Afghanistan by adding a new dimension of strife to a country that, though battered by a decade of war, has been free of sectarian conflict.

The attacks, among the war's deadliest, struck three Afghan cities — Kabul, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif — almost simultaneously and killed at least 63 Shiite worshippers on Ashura, which marks the death of Shiite Islam's holiest martyr. Targeted strikes by Sunnis against Shiites are alien to Afghanistan. So it was no surprise to Afghans when responsibility was claimed by a Sunni extremist group

from Pakistan, where Sunnis and Shiites have been energetically killing one another for decades.



A woman reacts as she walks away from the site of an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 6, 2011. At least 58 people were killed and scores wounded after bombers struck Shiite religious observances on Tuesday in three cities, detonating explosives amid crowds of worshipers in the first such sectarian attacks in a decade of war in Afghanistan.

(Bryan Denton/The New York Times)

The group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, had not previously claimed or carried out at-

tacks in Afghanistan, however, and its emergence fueled suspicions that al-Qai-

da, the Taliban or Pakistan's spy agency — or some combination of the those three — had teamed up with the

group to send the message that Afghanistan's future stability remained deeply tenuous and indeed dependent on the cooperation of outside forces.

"Never in our history have there been such cruel attacks on religious observances," said President Hamid Karzai, in a statement released by his office. "The enemies of Afghanistan do not want us to live under one roof with peace and harmony."

The timing of the attacks was especially pointed, coming a day after an international conference on Afghanistan in Bonn, Germany, that had been viewed as an opportunity for Afghanistan to cement long-term support from the West. But the conference fell considerably short of the objectives that officials had envisioned because

Taliban insurgents and Pakistani diplomats did not attend. Pakistan pulled out of the conference as a protest over the deaths of 24 of its soldiers in a U.S. airstrike, launched from Afghan territory, which U.S. officials have depicted as the result of a misunderstanding.

Critics of Pakistan were quick to read both Monday's boycott and Tuesday's bombings as a signal from the Pakistanis, delivered by Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, that Afghanistan could not ignore Pakistan.

"Pakistan is our historical enemy and wants us to never live in peace," said Noor Mohammad, one of the wounded worshippers, who was covered in blood. "What should we do, where should we go? The terrorists are not even letting us carry on our religious practices." □



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Colombians march against rebels for hostage-taking

VIVIAN SEQUERA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Tens of thousands marched across Colombia Tuesday to repudiate last month's

execution of soldiers and police by leftist rebels, who had held them for more than a decade as political bargaining chips.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, executed the four captives from close range with bullets to the head and back as government troops looking for the men engaged insurgents in combat on Nov. 26.

The government of President Juan Manuel Santos and Colombia's major media firmly backed the marches, which were convoked by relatives of the slain men and of hostages still held by the guerilla group.

A similar citizen mobilization in February 2008 was organized on Facebook and drew several million in Colombia and several world capitals.

Tuesday's turnout was far smaller. Marches were held in cities such as Medellin and Cartagena, with the biggest concentration in the capital of Bogota, where police chief of operations Col. Jorge Gal-

lego estimated the crowd at 100,000.

Small marches were also held in New York and Miami.

The mother of Jorge Trujillo, a 42-year-old police officer held for more than a decade by the FARC, was grateful for the turnout. Trujillo was not among the four recently executed.

"This support is fantastic because we don't feel forgotten," Oliva Solarte told The Associated Press.

The FARC took up arms in 1964 and authorities say they hold at least a dozen police and soldiers.

Colombia's U.S.-backed military has handed the FARC a string of stinging defeats in recent years, including the Nov. 4 killing of the rebel's 63-year-old commander, Alfonso Cano. But the guerrillas have about 9,000 fighters and many analysts believe they cannot be defeated militarily.

President Santos says he won't negotiate with the FARC until it frees all hostages as an initial sign of goodwill. □



A woman holds a T-shirt against the rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, during a march against kidnapping in Cali, Colombia, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011. Thousands marched throughout the country demanding the release of all hostages, ten days after four hostages of the FARC, who have been held captive between 12 and 13 years, were killed execution-style by their captors.

(AP Photo/Carlos Julio Martinez)

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Chavez: Venezuela willing to talk with Exxon Mobil

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez says his government would be open to negotiating with Exxon Mobil Corp. in a dispute over the nationalization of an oil project in the country.

Venezuelan officials have previously said Exxon Mobil's compensation demands are excessive. The Irving, Texas-based oil company turned to international arbitration after refusing to accept the terms of the nationalization in 2007.

Chavez says he would be willing to "sit down with them and seek a friendly settlement, but that's up to them and not to us."

Exxon Mobil declined to comment.

Chavez said during a news conference Tuesday that his government has always sought agreements in such cases when possible. □



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, right, reviews papers with an assistant before a press conference with foreign media members at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011. The painting at back depicts Venezuela's Independence hero Simon Bolivar. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

Court sides with investors in Antigua resort fight

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— A Caribbean appeals court this week sided with a group of U.S. investors in a long-standing battle with Antigua and Barbuda over a luxury resort battered by hurricanes.

The Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal on the tiny U.K. dependency of Antigua ruled that compensation for the prime stretch of coastal property in eastern Antigua should be set at \$45.5 million, nearly double a previous valuation.

With interest, the appeals court ruled that Antigua's debt to H.M.B. Holdings Ltd., the U.S. investors of the Half Moon Bay property, stood at \$65.7 million on Dec. 1 and will increase by \$390,000 each month

payment is delayed by the debt-racked government.

Then-Prime Minister Lester Bird's administration took control of the property in 2002 after renovations weren't completed seven years after a 100-room resort was wrecked by hurricanes Luis and Marilyn. Bird said then the resort would have accounted for 3 percent of the tourism-heavy gross domestic product of Antigua if it had been operating.

H.M.B. Holdings filed a lawsuit against the islands' government with the London-based Privy Council.

In 2007, the Privy Council affirmed the government's right to confiscate the property but ruled that the U.S. investors needed to be fairly compensated for



A Caribbean appeals court this week sided with a group of U.S. investors in a long-standing battle with Antigua and Barbuda over a luxury resort, Half Moon Bay, which was battered by hurricanes.

the resort, located on one of Antigua's most beautiful beaches with a mile of white sand protected by a reef. From her home in Antigua, Natalia Querard, the president of H.M.B. Holdings, said "it was a good day." The resort had been

in Querard's family for decades. But Querard, who is originally from New York, noted that Antigua has yet to pay H.M.B. Holdings Ltd. despite previous rulings.

"The minister of finance says they'll pay us as soon as somebody pays them,"

Querard said during a phone interview. She added that Antigua intends to rely on a third party to pay off the debt.

Authorities in Antigua and Barbuda didn't return emails and phone calls seeking comment.

Querard said Bird's government confiscated the Half Moon Bay property to pass onto disgraced Texas financier R. Allen Stanford, whose business empire was once based in Antigua and Barbuda. Several years ago, Stanford was one of the region's most prominent businessmen and Antigua's largest private employer. In 2009, he was accused of bilking investors out of \$7 billion, and faces several federal charges including mail fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy. □

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Japan's huge nuclear cleanup makes returning home a goal

MARTIN FACKLER

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FUTABA, Japan — Futaba is a modern-day ghost town — not a boomtown gone bust, not even entirely a victim of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that leveled other parts of Japan's northeast coast. Its traditional wooden homes have begun to sag and collapse since they were abandoned in March by residents fleeing the nuclear plant on the edge of town that began spiraling toward disaster. Roofs possibly damaged by the earth's shaking have let rain seep in, starting the rot that is eating at the houses from the inside. The roadway arch at the entrance to the empty town almost seems a taunt. It reads: "Nuclear energy: a correct understanding brings a prosperous lifestyle." Those who fled Futaba are among the nearly 90,000 people evacuated from a 12-mile zone around the Fukushima Daiichi plant and another area to the northwest contaminated when a plume from the plant scattered radioactive cesium and iodine. Now, Japan is drawing up plans for a cleanup that is both monumental and un-

precedented, in the hopes that those displaced can go home.

The debate over whether to repopulate the area, if trial cleanups prove effective, has become a proxy for a larger battle over the future of Japan. Supporters see rehabilitating the area as a chance to showcase the country's formidable determination and superior technical know-how — proof that Japan is still a great power. For them, the cleanup is a perfect metaphor for Japan's rebirth. Critics counter that the effort to clean Fukushima prefecture could end up as perhaps the biggest of Japan's white-elephant public works projects — and yet another example of post-disaster Japan reverting to the wasteful ways that have crippled economic growth for two decades. So far, the government is following a pattern set since the nuclear accident, dismissing dangers, often prematurely, laboring to minimize the scope of the catastrophe. Already, the trial cleanups have stalled: The government failed to anticipate communities' reluctance to store tons of soil to be scraped from con-



Mitsue Ikeda, an evacuee, said she will never return home since a medical exam showed her 8-year-old son, Yuma, has ingested radioactive cesium, at the her temporary housing unit in Aizuwakamatsu, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan. Japan is planning a monumental and unprecedented cleanup in the 12-mile zone surrounding the tsunami-ravaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, in the hope that the displaced can go home.

(Ko Sasaki/The New York Times)

taminated yards and fields. And a radiation specialist who tested the results of an extensive local cleanup in a nearby city found that exposure levels remained above international safety standards. Even a vocal supporter of repatriation suggests that the government has not yet leveled with its people about the seriousness of their predicament. "I believe it is possible to save Fukushima,"

said the supporter, Tatsuhiko Kodama, director of the Radioisotope Center at the University of Tokyo. "But many evacuated residents must accept that it won't happen in their lifetimes."

To judge the huge scale of what Japan is attempting, consider that experts say residents can return home safely only after thousands of buildings are scrubbed of radioactive particles and much of the topsoil from an area the size of Connecticut is replaced. □ That is not all: Even forested mountains will probably need to be decontaminated, which might necessitate clear-cutting and literally scraping them clean. The Soviet Union did not attempt such a cleanup after the Chernobyl accident of 1986, the only nuclear disaster larger than that at Fukushima Daiichi. The government instead relocated about 300,000 people, abandoning vast tracts of farmland.

Many Japanese officials believe that they do not have that luxury; the evacuation zone covers about 5,200 square miles, more than 3 percent of the landmass of this densely populated nation. □

Man killed by Piranhas in Bolivia

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Authorities say piranhas attacked and killed a young man who leaped into a river infested with the flesh-eating fish in northeastern Bolivia. Daniel Cayaya is a police official in the small city of Guayaramerin. He tells The Associated Press that the 18-year-old man was drunk when he jumped out of a canoe in the nearby town of Rosario del Yata, 400



A piranha readies to attack its prey. Authorities say piranhas attacked and killed a young man who leaped into a river infested with the flesh-eating fish in northeastern Bolivia.

miles (640 kilometers) north of the capital of La Paz. Cayaya says the man bled to death after the attack, which occurred last Thursday. First word of the incident emerged Tuesday, when it was reported by the Erbol radio station. Cayaya says the police suspect suicide because the man was a fisherman in the region who knew the Yata river well. □

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Going the distance to make craft cocktails at home

JEFF GORDINIER
© 2011 New York Times

It was while my station wagon sat stuck behind a dump truck as I inched across Westchester County trying to find a bottle of Italian chestnut honey distillate that I realized I was probably not cut out for this mixology thing. I had the passion, to be sure, even if my after-work bartending adventures only sporadically get beyond the pour-bourbon-on-top-of-ice stage. And the mission had seemed simple enough. The idea was to attempt to make a few recipes from the most buzzed-about cocktail guide in the country, "The PDT Cocktail Book" (Sterling Epicure; \$24.95) by Jim Meehan.

"Cocktail culture has taken root in people's homes, and your average consumers are so much more educated than they were even two years ago," said Greg Best, a bartender and one of the owners.

"I mean, I have people coming in and asking me what Torino-based ver-

mouth I carry. We get runs on allspice dram. People are coming in and not even thinking twice about dropping 100 bucks on a bottle of yellow chartreuse."

All the PDT recipes I wanted to try called for specific and obscure spirits – a few of which I'd never heard of.

My search began with a splash of hope. The first shop I wandered into, Rochambeau Wines and Liquors in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., carried a surprising bounty of the ingredients that I needed. It had Cherry Heering, Clear Creek Kirschwasser, and Gran Duque d'Alba Brandy de Jerez, all of which I had to find in order to create a cherry-tinged elixir called the Mount Vernon.

"That's what we're known for," Jeffrey Woody, the general manager at Rochambeau, said proudly. "A customer will say, 'I haven't been able to find it. Can you help me?' And we'll have five of them on the shelf."

Indeed, the store also car-



A cherry-tinged elixir called the Mount Vernon, at PDT lounge, which has produced a recipe book for those trying to make speakeasy cocktails at home, in New York. Making cocktails at home seems to be a growing trend and people are becoming more educated on the subject.

(Moya McAllister/The New York Times)

ried two of the five elements of a drink called the Kina Miele (Dolin Dry Vermouth and Clear Creek Pear Brandy) and one of the things I needed for the Nigori Milk Punch (Hine V.S.O.P. Cognac).

That's when things got complicated.

That Nigori Milk Punch also

called for Kamoizumi Nigori sake, three dashes of Feldman's Barrel Aged Bitters and something called Navan Vanilla Liqueur. Rochambeau didn't have these. In fact, it was unlikely that any store would have the Navan.

"No more," Rochambeau's owner, Dieter Kannapin, said after hanging up the phone by the cash register. "Navan is no more?" Woody said.

"Off the market," Kannapin said. "They don't make it anymore."

Which meant the Nigori Milk Punch was already toast.

At this point, Woody was kind enough to perform a computer search for Nonino Gioiello, another element of the Kina Miele. The good news?

Zachys, a short drive away in Scarsdale, N.Y., had some. The bad news?

"Oh my God," Woody said. It turned out that this Italian chestnut-honey distillate, presumably made by angels who extract gossamer threads from ancient

beehives when the moon is blue, sold for about \$100 a bottle.

As I stood there, mildly stunned, Woody sagely observed that the resources available to a home bartender are not the same as those available to a celebrated Manhattan cocktail wizard.

"It's a different mind-set when you're playing with house money," he said.

MOUNT VERNON

Adapted from "The PDT Cocktail Book," by Jim Meehan (Sterling Epicure, 2011)

1 ounce Clear Creek Kirschwasser

1 ounce Gran Duque d'Alba Brandy de Jerez

3/4 ounce grapefruit juice

1/2 ounce Lustau Pedro Ximenez sherry

1/2 ounce Cherry Heering

3 brandied cherries, for garnish.
Shake all the ingredients except the cherries with ice and strain into a chilled glass. Garnish with the cherries on a pick.

Yield: 1 drink. □

Single-malt whiskies from Islay: Fog and smoke and mystery

ERIC ASIMOV
© 2011 New York Times

Tasting whiskies can be a clinical, prosaic task, nosing and assessing, jotting notes, reconsidering, lips compressed in concentration, brow furrowed. Yet, as the spirits panel tasted 20 single malts from Islay, we reminded ourselves to step back a moment, to contemplate with no small amount of awe the magic of what was in the glass. Islay demands a sense of wonder.

I've never visited Islay, that island off Scotland's western coast with the evocative pronunciation EYE-lah. But sipping a good Islay single malt, with its astounding range of complex expressions, transports you to an Islay that seems as mythical as it is real.

It is a world unscarred by modernity's claws; an island of fog, smoke, brine and mystery, where ancient distilleries, after years of throbbing production,

go dark when demand wanes. There they sit, abandoned on the green and craggy landscape, their distinctive pagoda roofs intact, yet silent like phantom freighters.

Some remain that way, their sites revered like ancient stone circles by whisky lovers. For others comes reincarnation when market conditions change again. The ghostly cobwebs are cleared away, the pot stills rejuvenated, and once more they will yield the precious distilled vapors of malted barley, peat, yeast, crystalline water and air.

If it seems odd to consider air an ingredient, you have to stick your nose in a glass of Islay single malt. Along with all the other components, a savory whiff of salty sea breeze is unmistakable. The sense of mystery in the terrain is palpable as well. "As you explore you can see how it compresses its secrets into tight parcels: dune-fringed



Glasses of single malt whiskies, from the island of Islay off Scotland, lined up during a tasting, in New York, Nov. 10, 2011. What sets Islay whiskey apart from Scotland's other whisky regions is its reputation for smoky, robust malts.

(Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times)

beaches, remote hills, cliffs, caves, peat bogs, standing stones, lost parliaments, abandoned townships and Celtic memories," Michael Jackson wrote in "Whiskey: The Definitive World Guide" (DK, 2005). "It is a tapestry of geographical and historical treasures through which whiskey runs like a golden

thread."

It is this air of mystery, along with a reputation for the smokiest, most robust and challenging malts, that seems to set Islay apart from Scotland's other whisky regions. Most experts, however, agree that whiskeys can no longer be classified geographically.

Production methods have become so homogenized that they no longer reflect local eccentricities as much as they do a distiller's predilections.

The smokiness comes from the tradition of using peat – bog soil made of decomposed vegetable matter that was harvested to fuel kilns used for drying barley. Assertive peating has long been a trait of famous Islay malts, like Laphroaig, Lagavulin and Ardbeg, but it is not exclusive to Islay. And just as much a part of the Islay tradition are gentler malts like Bunnahabhain (BUN-na-hah-ven) and Bruichladdich (brook-LAD-dy), which are lighter in body and more floral than peaty. (Another tradition, shared throughout Scotland, seems to be names that are impossible to sound out phonetically.) Our 20 Islay single malts included bottles from each of the eight working Islay distilleries. □



Keynote speaker Professor Putnam at the Happy Community Conference

PM Mike Eman honored to welcome Harvard Professor Robert Putnam to Aruba

ORANJESATD -Robert D. Putnam is Malkin Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University. He was the 2006 recipient of the Skytte Prize and has served as an adviser to presidents and national leaders around the world, including U.S. Presidents Bush and Clinton, British Prime Ministers Blair and Brown, and Ireland's Bertie Ahern. He founded the prestigious Saguaro Seminar, which brings together leading thinkers and practitioners to develop concrete and actionable ideas for civic renewal. He has written more than a dozen books, including *Bowling Alone* and *Making Democracy Work*, both among the most cited publications in the social sciences in the last half century. His books have been translated into 17 languages. The London Sunday Times has called him "the most influential academic in the world today." The Economist magazine praised *Making Democracy Work* as "a great work of social science, worthy to rank alongside de Tocqueville, Pareto and Weber." In Aruba, Professor Putnam will deliver the keynote speech at the Happy Community Conference, entitled, "The challenges and opportunities for building community in a multiethnic world." Professor Putnam described his topic as follows: "Social capital – social networks, civic engagement, and norms of reciprocity – has powerful, measurable benefits for individuals and communities. Effective democracy, economic development, educational success, low crime rates,



and physical and mental health are all fostered by social capital. In this talk I will discuss the factors that help or hamper the development of social capital in the contemporary." Prime Minister Mike Eman stated, "Aruba is honored to have such a leading figure in the area of civic



renewal as Professor Putnam visit us and share his thoughts on this important topic. It is particularly appropriate as Aruba has been working for the last two years to put into action some of these very same ideas in the form of our own programs and policies, such as Bo Bario, to help strengthen our own sense of community and civic engagement. We recognize the link between civic engagement and benefits to individuals as well as the broader community." Putnam's most recent book, *American Grace*, co-authored with David Campbell of Notre Dame, focuses on the role of religion in American public life. Based on data from two of the most comprehensive national surveys on religion and civic engagement ever conducted, *American Grace* is the winner of the American Political



Science Association's 2011 Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award for the best book on government, politics, or international affairs. He is a member of the National Academy of Scienc-

es, the British Academy, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and past president of the American Political Science Association. □



Open letter to the Government of Aruba Regarding the recent destruction at Palm Beach malls

PALM BEACH - This year we are celebrating 25 years of the Status Aparte and Aruba indeed may be proud on all what was accomplished.

Our island is an example how with a vision, public and private sector has put their shoulders under many projects and we have flourished and are considered an example in the Caribbean of a nation that from the crisis year of 1985 stood strong.

Our nation under every Government since 1986 built, created, developed and motivated and we as Palm Beach Developers (soon to be united as the Palm Beach Developers and Merchants Association) played our part and financially contributed to the enhancement of Palm Beach and tourism in general.

The developments at Palm Beach complimented the Palm Beach strip hotels and created approximately

1000 jobs and enhanced tourism satisfaction and as such generated substantial tax dollars, which in turn have had a positive effect on our island economy.

For the first time in our nation's history, however, we are experiencing a major lack of dialogue that has lead to actions that were detrimental as seen from any angle. We were forced to take down structures (signs, flagpoles, for example) that have proven their value to our merchants and as attractions to our visitors. We understand the rule of law, however, this rule of law should be transparent and consistently applied in a timely fashion to all of us. What have we gained by demolishing structures and how do you think this looks in the eyes of our tourists, investors and potential investors? Where is the (social) dialogue this Government has been so proud to introduce with the private sector?



We request a more comprehensive and fair system in regards to the application of construction policy and procedures. Our goal is to reach common sense solutions.

Here we envision a relationship where Government will display a relationship of "what can we do for you" and "how can we strengthen our island's economy" within the parameters of reasonability and mutually agreed published policy. Unfortunately we have to ascertain that arbitrary decisions and lack of transparency are more common as one would expect in this challenging global econo-



my we are faced with today.

Aruba has become the front runner in the Caribbean through entrepreneurship and free enterprise and our tourism numbers speak for themselves. The Palm Beach area, thanks to (among others) the initiatives of the developers in this area, is alive and is being enjoyed by both our local population as much as the many tourists that reside or come to this area to be entertained in great numbers.

The Private and Public partnerships our Government is encouraging to develop should set the tone of how

we can make things better and strengthen our economy.

In this light we may have to adapt legislation to create even more jobs and opportunities. At the end the intention is for a win-win situation to be generated by both of us.

We welcome an open discussion with the respective lawmakers and the general public to reach a fair and equitable outcome that does not negatively impact our tourism product.

Palm Beach Developers and Merchants Association (South Beach Center, The Village and Playa Linda Beach Resort). □

Aruhiba, The 1 and Only Homemade Aruban Cigar



ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is



specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till

8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores.

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Art invasion of Wonders

Danilo Geerman delights with his alchemist's vision



ORANJESTAD - A veritable art invasion has taken place at Wonders, the recently opened, wondrous Boutique Hotel in the Emmastraat.

Exquisite paintings in soft yellow, ochre, adobe and turquoise now line the walls of the former physician's family home. The connoisseur will recognize the work of local artist Danilo Geerman, whose close and personal look at the molecular world is intriguing. His painstakingly applied brush strokes have resulted in restful and calm works that explore the lives of dreamily wafting micro organisms. Journeys into imaginary micro organisms form part of Danilo's Transmutation exposition, held in the Westin Resort this year; other work comes for instance from the Between Heaven and Earth and the Tree of Life expositions; the last one held in the Access Art Gallery in 2007. Danilo Geerman's life has focused on art for more than 25 years; his first participation in a group exposition dates back to 1986. His most recent work not only sees a change in colors, but also in the fact that he has started exploring etchings and drawings. These were made during an art residency in Ontario, Canada, where he met and worked with artists from all over the world. More than 50 paintings, small and large, can be admired at Wonders. They are not only hanging in the large central part of the house, but also in the rooms, already getting rave reviews from the guests. Anybody who would like to admire Danilo Geerman's work, or Wonders for that



matter, can call Gaston Verlaan at 593-4032/582-0066. Wonders can be found when one takes a left past Top Car and passes Win Tung Home center. The Boutique Hotel is on the second corner at number 63; its website is www.wondersaruba.com. □



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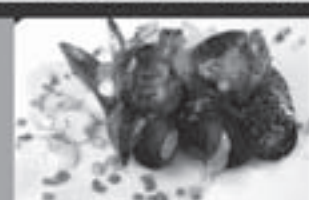
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Miss Free Zone Paraguana Silvia Medina visits Aruba



ORANJESTAD - Recently, Miss Free Zone Paraguana 2011 Silvia Medina from Punto Fijo, Venezuela enjoyed all the sights on the island of Aruba. She was accompanied by

Members of the Miss Tourism commission John and Ricardo Lujo. Miss Medina received a complimentary ticket from Tiara Air to Aruba and The Aruba Mill Resort complemented her



weeklong stay. Aruba Tourism Authority Representative Ricardo Croes accompanied the group from Punto Fijo. They had a wonderful time courtesy of De Palm Tours who took them on Safari Tours and also the the private beaches of De Palm Island. They enjoyed all the wonderful sites and especially enjoyed the shopping at Paseo Herencia, at Palm Beach Mall and also at the Palm Beach Center. □



Informative and Thoughtful

Harold D. Malmberg's notes from the PFTSA Seminar

Oranjestad -- During the recent PFTSA seminar Harold Malmberg, President and Chairman of the Board of De Palm Tours addressed the forum, congregating for an informative afternoon at the Holiday Inn Sunspree. Malmberg, one of the island's visionary pioneers and entrepreneurs commented on the Mandatory Pension law which will be coming into effect on January 1st, 2012, and will enforce saving for old age with the participation of the employee and the employer. Malmberg began his discourse informing his audience as to the reasons why his company became a founder of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association Pension Fund. It all started, he explained, with a very close relative, who left Lago Oil & Transport Company after 25 years of service, with a pension of US\$ 58.00 per month. Shortly thereafter, the closing of the refinery in 1985 followed a result of which De Palm Tours started re-

ceiving job applications from among the laid-off workers. What particularly drew Malmberg's attention was the fact that many job-seekers were either close to, or older than 60. Many had worked for the refinery for more than 30 years. But they all reported they could not survive on their pension averaging 100 florin per month and that the AOV allowance sponsored by the government was not enough either. When asked if they had saved anything during their 30 years of employment, very few answered positively. The realization that there was a real need for a pension fund, inspired the Malmberg family, as they felt a moral obligation to take an initiative and assist employees with saving for old age. After Lago's departure tourism became the only economic pillar, until the consequent reopening of the refinery under new ownership. As tourism development accelerated and more hotels



were built in a short period of time, Rory Arends, then at the head of AHATA, and Anselmo Pontilius, also found the establishment of a Pension Fund important. The core founding team recruited more believers, with other AHATA Board Members such as Willy Cramer and Ed Malone, coming on board. It gives me great pleasure, says Malmberg to see how successful the fund is, among the first in the Caribbean, and our tourism industry voluntarily embraced it and made it work. Needless to say, at De Palm Tours, some young employees voiced objections to saving, which had to be overcome. Younger

workers did not see a need for a Pension Fund and refused to look down the road, ahead into the future. Some even claimed that they would die young and others just nipped the idea of saving in the bud. Thus the only solution was to make it mandatory for all employees, force workers of all ages to join the fund when entering De Palm Tour's service. Older employees also voiced objections. They told the company that they were too old and did not have enough time available to accumulate a reasonable amount of money to carry them through old age, so most of them refused to join. Others claimed that they had saved on their own for their retirement and did not need to join the fund. As the company asked for proof of savings, it caused unfortunate arguments. Eventually, workers at De Palm Tours agreed on an age that would absolve mandatory membership,

and those older than that age were released from joining the fund. The younger ones fell under the mandatory rule. Meanwhile as time went by, Malmberg explains, several of De Palm Tours employees already reached the age of pension and are collecting theirs, which in conjunction with AOV gives them a reasonable income. The company also has older employees who are now on pension, who never joined the plan, because of their high age. Those were kept on the payroll for the rest of their lives as company-sponsored "pensionados". Most of them have worked for De Palm Tours for 30 + years and have been through good and bad times. The company is very proud of their achievement, and is holding on to them, Malmberg stated. In closing his address at the pension fund seminar Malmberg reiterated: "I am in full support of the law, because it is morally the right thing to do!" □

Thomas stops 45, surging Bruins top Pens

Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby, right, collides with Boston Bruins' David Krejci (46) along the boards in the first period of an NHL hockey game, Monday, Dec. 5, 2011, in Pittsburgh.

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NFL's Packers offer stock, 1st time since '97

By TODD RICHMOND

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—

The Green Bay Packers have an MVP candidate in quarterback Aaron Rodgers a Super Bowl championship won just 10 months ago and an undefeated team making a run toward another title for Titledown.

The Packers now have hundreds of new owners, too.

The team kicked off a rare stock sale Tuesday to help pay for another round of renovations at Lambeau Field, giving pretty much anyone a shot at becoming an NFL owner for \$250 per share, plus a \$25 handling charge.

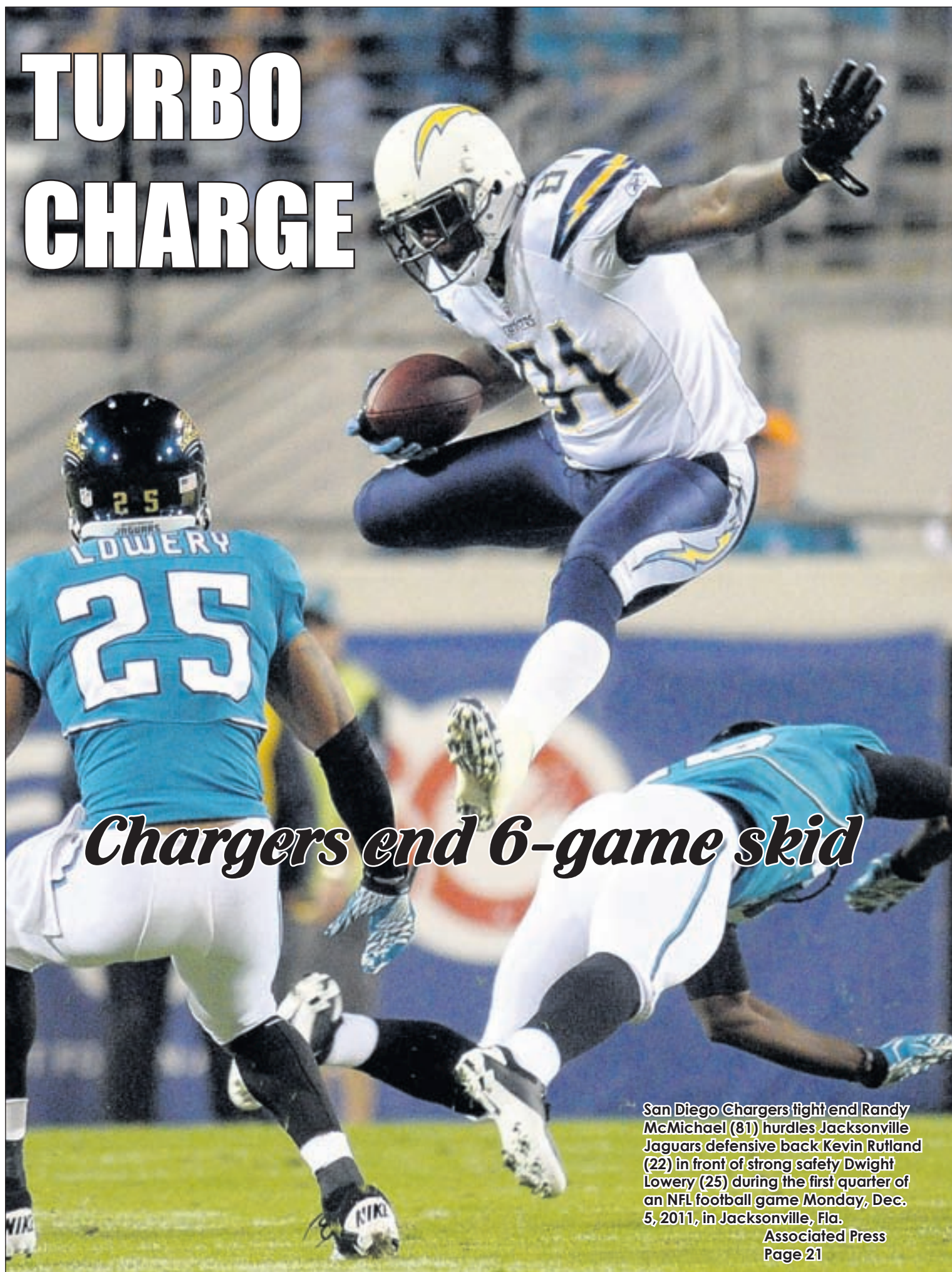
Sarah Johnson, 34, of Portage said it took her nearly 20 minutes to complete what should have been a 30-second process, but it was worth to wait.

"I could have just as well thrown my money out the window for what I get for it, other than a feel-good," she said. "I just feel like the Packer organization has sort of a nostalgia and an excitement around it other franchises don't have. Just to say you're part of that on some level is neat to me."

The team received 1,600 orders in the first 11 minutes of the sale, said Packers President Mark Murphy, who had to reassure fans the Packers website was still working. Team spokesman Aaron Popkey said he did not have any sales data as of early Tuesday afternoon.

Continued on Page 21

TURBO CHARGE



Chargers end 6-game skid

San Diego Chargers tight end Randy McMichael (81) hurdles Jacksonville Jaguars defensive back Kevin Rutland (22) in front of strong safety Dwight Lowery (25) during the first quarter of an NFL football game Monday, Dec. 5, 2011, in Jacksonville, Fla.

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Ted Ligety rallies to win World Cup giant slalom

PAT GRAHAM

AP Sports Writer

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. (AP) —

The way Ted Ligety carved into turns looked so easy. The way he glided in between sections of the steep course appeared so elegant.

Even when he's skiing on edge in a giant slalom race, pushing to the brink of his ability — as he insisted he was doing Tuesday — it hardly seemed that way.

No wonder some of his rivals have taken to calling him, "Mr. GS."

Ligety turned in a blazing second run in frigid conditions to capture a World Cup giant slalom race on a demanding Birds of Prey course.

The three-time overall GS champion flew down the hill in a combined time of 2 minutes, 40.01 seconds to hold off Marcel Hirscher of Austria by 0.69 seconds. Kjetil Jansrud of Norway was third.

"I tried to do my best. I had no chance," Hirscher said. "Ted was unbreakable."

It was Hirscher who lit a fire under Ligety.

On Sunday, Hirscher knocked off Ligety in a giant slalom race on this course, finding superior speed where many others, including Ligety, couldn't. So, Ligety went to the video and studied Hirscher's amazing run from the weekend and used it against him.

"I'm glad to come down and get some redemp-



Ted Ligety, of Park City, Utah, skis in the first run of the World Cup giant slalom ski competition on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011, in Beaver Creek, Colo.

Associated Press

tion," Ligety said. "(Hirscher) crushed me by quite a bit and a lot of other guys Sunday."

This time, it was Ligety's turn. He entered the final run trailing France's Alexis Pinturault by 0.14 seconds. But Ligety easily made up the time to win his 10th World Cup race. Pinturault made an early mistake and never recovered, settling for fourth.

"I was pushing super hard," Ligety conceded. "If I did that run several times, I don't know if I'd make it to the finish line with a high percentage."

At 27, Ligety is the undisputed king of the GS. But he has a couple of youngsters hot on his heels in Hirscher (22 years old) and Pinturault (20). They keep getting better with age, especially Pinturault, who Ligety said is bound to break through for his first win very soon, possi-

bly even this season.

"It's just a matter of time," Ligety said. "That's definitely a good motivator for me, knowing there's somebody 7 years younger than me that probably has more raw speed than I do. That's something that's going to make me push hard in the future. I'm hoping (Pinturault) doesn't get that mental ability and race speed too soon."

Hirscher is already there. His performance this week is evidence of that. Second after the first run, Hirscher may have even charged toward another win Tuesday, but he banged his hand on a gate and wasn't the same in his final trip through the course.

"I was a bit not that aggressive like in the first run," Hirscher said. "I'm pretty happy with my second place. For me, it's perfect to be here." □



In this Sept. 17, 1981 file photo, boxer, Thomas Hearn, right, hits Sugar Ray Leonard with a right to the head during their title bout in Las Vegas.

Associated Press.

Thomas Hearn tops the new Hall of Fame class

CANASTOTA, New York (AP) — Thomas "Hitman" Hearn, the first man to win titles in four divisions, tops a list of 13 people elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame and Museum.

Hearn, who won five titles altogether, compiled a 155-8 amateur record and was 61-5-1 with 48 knockouts as a pro. Also selected were: Mark Johnson, a two-division champion; ring announcer Michael Buffer; trainer Freddie Roach; broadcaster Al Bernstein; and journalist Michael Katz. Posthumous honorees include: Cocoa Kid, Newsboy Brown, Leo Houck, and Jake Kilrain in the old-timer category; promoters Hugh D. McIntosh and Rip Valenti in the non-participant category; and James Wharton in the pioneer category.

Inductees were selected by members of the Boxing Writers Association and a panel of international boxing historians. Induction day is next June 10. □

NHL approves radical realignment plan

JOSH DUBOW

AP Sports Writer

PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP) — NHL officials have approved a radical realignment plan that will give the league four conferences instead of six divisions.

The Board of Governors approved the move Monday at the first day of their meeting. The realignment won't be implemented until NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman discusses the new plan with the NHL Players' Association. The league needed to make changes to accommodate Atlanta's move to Winnipeg this past summer. They could have switched one team from the Western Conference with the Jets but opted for a more dramatic plan. □



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McIlroy, Westwood welcome Tiger Woods' big win

MICHAEL CASEY
AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Tiger Woods is back to his winning ways, and some of the best golfers in the world are relishing the chance to face him again. Woods won the Chevron World Challenge on Sunday, ending a two-year title drought that began shortly after his personal life imploded. "It's something I look forward to," said Rory McIlroy, the U.S. Open champion who has moved up to No. 2 in the world and is playing at this week's Dubai Championship. "(Playing against Tiger) would be a huge experience and a huge learning curve for me just to see how I would handle it."

"But it's not something I have experienced and it's not something that a lot of players in my sort of generation have experienced yet and it would just be great to have the opportunity to do it at some point next year."

Before Sunday's victory, Woods had last won on Nov. 15, 2009, at the Australian Masters — a 26-tourna-

ment drought. But that win moved Woods from No. 52 to No. 21 in the world ranking.

Unlike a year ago when he blew a four-shot lead in the final round at Sherwood Country Club to lose in a playoff to Graeme McDowell, Woods this time made his clutch putts on Sunday and came from two-shots to beat former Masters champion Zach Johnson.

It was a performance that seemed to show that his recent success in Australia was no fluke.

He showed signs of coming back with nine solid rounds in the wind in Australia, finishing third at the Australian Open and delivering the clinching point for the Americans in the Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne.

"With Tiger, obviously it's nice for him, I think, that he could win again," fourth-ranked Martin Kaymer said.

"It's good for us. He did a lot for the sport and the status that golf has in the world."

"It would be nice to play against the best player whoever played the game in their top form and see if



Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy blasts out of a bunker on the 18th hole at the Hong Kong Open golf tournament in Hong Kong Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011. McIlroy won the tournament with 12-under 268.
Associated Press

you can beat them." Third-ranked Lee Westwood also welcomed Woods back, calling him "the biggest name in golf and probably one of the biggest names in world sports." Westwood said it can only

help when Woods is playing at his best and on the top of the leaderboard in any tournament.

"You know, obviously Tiger getting back into the winner's enclosure is great for golf," Westwood said. "I

think everybody likes to see the best players in the world playing well.

Tiger has been one of those, that kind of player, and might well get back there. Starting to play well is the first start of that process." □

Bruins keep rolling, drop Crosby and Penguins 3-1

NHL Roundup

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Gregory Campbell, Benoit Pouliot and Tyler Seguin scored, and Tim Thomas stopped 45 shots as the surging Boston Bruins kept rolling with a 3-1 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Monday.

The Bruins have won 14 of their last 15 games, their longest point streak since the club went 17 games without a loss in 1983.

The defending Stanley Cup champions clamped down on the Eastern Conference-leading Penguins, holding star Sidney Crosby scoreless.

Matt Cooke scored his sixth goal of the season for Pittsburgh, but the Penguins went 0-for-4 on the power play and squandered a pair of 5-on-3 opportunities.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, RANGERS 2

At New York, Phil Kessel had two assists to add to his NHL-leading point total as Toronto snapped the New York Rangers' five-game winning streak.

The Maple Leafs scored twice in less than two minutes to take a 3-0 lead early in the second period, then gave both goals back in another quick burst later in the period.

Jonas Gustavsson made



Boston Bruins' Benoit Pouliot (67) can't get a shot off in front of Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury (29) during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh, Monday, Dec. 5, 2011.

Associated Press

12 saves in the third to preserve the one-goal margin, repeatedly turning New York away on a power play in the final minute before David Steckel scored an empty-net goal with 5 seconds left.

Cody Franson, Tim Connolly and Joffrey Lupul also scored for the Leafs. Gustavsson made 30 saves. Artem Anisimov and Marian Gaborik netted the Rangers' goals.

PANTHERS 5, CAPITALS 4

At Sunrise, Florida, Stephen Weiss scored two goals to lead Florida to a win over Washington.

Mike Santorelli, Dmitry Kulikov and Sean Bergenheim also scored for Florida, and Scott Clemmensen stopped 28 shots. Kulikov added two assists, and defenseman Brian Campbell had three. Mike Knuble, Cody Eakin, Brooks Laich and Jason

Chimera had goals for the Capitals. Michal Neuvirth made 25 saves, but struggled in his second start under new Washington coach Dale Hunter.

SENATORS 4, LIGHTNING 2

At Ottawa, Nick Foligno scored 15:33 into the third period and Zack Smith added two goals as Ottawa extended Tampa Bay's losing streak to four games.

Daniel Alfredsson scored

his sixth goal — the 395th of his NHL career — at 8:58 to tie it at 2 for the Senators. The Ottawa captain also earned an assist when Foligno gave the Senators a 3-2 lead by coming out from behind the net and tucking the puck past goalie Dwayne Roloson. Craig Anderson, who stopped 30 shots, tied a career high with his third assist of the season on Alfredsson's goal.

Martin St. Louis and Bruno Gervais scored for Tampa Bay, which began a four-game trip.

Steven Stamkos assisted on both goals. Roloson made 27 saves.

COYOTES 4, BLACKHAWKS 3, SO

At Chicago, Radim Vrbata and Oliver Ekman-Larsson scored in the shootout, and Mike Smith stopped Jonathan Toews and Marian Hossa in the tiebreaker to lead Phoenix to a victory over Chicago. Vrbata also scored in regulation for Phoenix, which had lost two games since a 4-1 victory over the Blackhawks last Tuesday. Smith finished with 32 saves. Raffi Torres and Keith Yandle also scored in regulation for Phoenix, which recovered after blowing a 3-0 lead. □

NHL discusses player safety at board meeting

JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP) — NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman says there is not enough data yet to draw conclusions about the link between concussions and a degenerative brain ailment that has been found in four dead ice hockey players.

The league wrapped up its Board of Governors meetings on Tuesday, a day after The New York Times reported that former New York Rangers enforcer Derek Boogaard suffered from chronic traumatic encephalopathy, an ailment related to Alzheimer's disease. The 28-year-old Boogaard, who died in May of an accidental overdose of alco-



In this Nov. 4, 2010, file photo, Philadelphia Flyers' Jody Shelley, left, and New York Rangers' Derek Boogaard fight during an NHL hockey game in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

hol and oxycodone, was found to have had CTE — which can be diagnosed only after the death of the patient. Boogaard is the fourth former NHL player found to have CTE by Bos-

ton University's Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy.

"They're still looking at a very limited database," Bettman said. "There's no control element because

you have to look at everything that went on in a person's life before you can make a judgment as to what a brain may show when you open it up. ... There are no easy answers yet. I think it's unfortunate that people use tragedies to jump to conclusions that probably at this stage aren't supported." Boogaard scored three goals, had 589 penalty minutes and reportedly participated in 61 regular-season fights in his NHL career. He also reportedly participated in more than 100 fights in the minor leagues.

The disease was more advanced in Boogaard than it was in famed enforcer Bob Probert, who died of heart failure in 2010 at 45.

He played 16 seasons in the NHL and often struggled with alcohol and drug addiction.

Reggie Fleming, who was 73, and 59-year-old Rick Martin, were other players who were found to have CTE.

Robert Stern, the co-director of the center at BU, said in an email that CTE research is still in its infancy but that all confirmed cases of CTE are in people who have had a history of repetitive brain trauma earlier in their lives.

Stern said many people with a history of repeated brain trauma do not develop CTE and it has not been determined why some people get the disease and others do not. □



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Rivers, Chargers gouge reeling Jaguars, 38-14

By **MARK LONG**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) —

Of all the negative numbers over the last six weeks, the only one that mattered to Philip Rivers was the losses.

Sure, the interceptions and fumbles were bothersome. But they didn't compare to the six-game losing streak, the franchise's longest in more than eight years. So Rivers made little of his big night against Jacksonville.

Rivers threw for 294 yards and three touchdowns, burning Jacksonville's depleted secondary early and often, and the Chargers beat the Jaguars 38-14 Monday night to snap a six-game losing streak.

"There was no magical play or magical scheme," Rivers said. "We just played better. This doesn't mean we'll play better next week. Each game stands alone. We

played good for three and a half hours, won and now let's go play somebody else next week."

The Chargers (5-7) had been waiting for the three-time Pro Bowl selection to return to form. Some questioned whether it would happen this season. But Rivers never lost faith even though he leads the NFL in interceptions (17) and turnovers (21) and was a key part of the team's disappointing slide.

"It's been a rough six weeks," Rivers said. "I haven't put a complete game together, but I don't care about the numbers. I just want to win."

Rivers was nearly perfect against Jacksonville (3-9), adding to the team's tumultuous week.

He completed 22 of 28 passes — hooking up with Vincent Brown, Vincent Jackson and Malcom Floyd

for long scores — before sitting out the final few minutes. Rivers finished with a 146.1 QB rating, by far his highest of the season.

The Chargers scored on five of their first six drives, then sent most of the home crowd scrambling for the exits with Ryan Mathews' 31-yard TD run in the fourth. Mathews ran 13 times for 112 yards.

"That's the type of chemistry coming into this season we knew we had," tight end Antonio Gates said. "We stayed on course despite what we've been through these last six weeks. That we were able to get a win tonight speaks volumes for this team."

It was a much-needed victory for a team that trails Denver and Oakland by two games in the AFC West with four to play.

And it was another blow to the Jaguars, who endured



San Diego Chargers wide receiver Vincent Jackson, center, catches a pass for a touchdown between Jacksonville Jaguars free safety Dawan Landry (26) and cornerback Ashton Youbot during the first half of an NFL football game in Jacksonville, Fla., Monday, Dec. 5, 2011.

Associated Press

PACKERS

Continued from Page 17

"It's just a question of volume," Murphy said. "Fans are excited about this opportunity. We just encourage fans to be patient."

It is the fifth stock sale in the Packers' 92-year history and the first in 14 years.

The NFL's only publicly-owned team offered 250,000 shares through Feb. 29, subject to an extension.

The stock isn't an investment in the traditional sense: Its value doesn't increase, there are no dividends, it has virtually no re-sale value and it won't give buyers a leg up on the 93,000 people on the waiting list for season tickets.



The fine print on the Packers' stock sale website says NFL rules prohibit shareholders from betting on any NFL game; violators could face up to \$5,000 in fines.

Popkey didn't immediately return email and voicemail messages seeking comment, but NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said in an email he had never heard of it

being a concern.

What buyers do get is a piece of paper declaring them a team owner, voting rights and the right to attend the annual stockholder meeting at Lambeau each summer before training camp.

Oh, and they get access to a special line of shareholder apparel, too. □

the most sweeping changes in the 17-year history of the franchise last week.

Team owner Wayne Weaver fired coach Jack Del Rio and announced he was selling the club to Illinois businessman Shahid Khan. Interim coach Mel Tucker fired receivers coach Johnny Cox, reassigned quarterbacks coach Mike Shepard and waived starting receiver Jason Hill.

The moves seemed to invigorate a franchise that had seemingly gone stale in Del Rio's ninth season. Fans showed up energized for a prime-time game that signaled the start of a new era. Some wore "Yes We Khan" T-shirts. Other donned fake mustaches to look like the owner-in-waiting.

It made little difference on the field, mostly because

Jacksonville's defensive injuries proved too much to overcome.

The Jaguars played without their top three cornerbacks — Rashean Mathis, Derek Cox and Will Middleton — and lost safety Dwight Lowery (shoulder) and defensive end John Chick (knee) during the game.

"No excuses here," Tucker said. "We won't allow ourselves to go down that road."

Rivers took advantage of the injuries, picking on a pair of cornerbacks who were signed off the street in recent weeks. Rivers threw two TD passes in the final 2:32 of the first half. The opening drive of the third quarter didn't take long, either. On the fifth play, Rivers found Floyd deep down the right sideline for a 52-yard score. □



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

A Tale of 2 Cities

Large cities fascinate me. The complexity for everything to work smoothly is astonishing. My favorite is the removal of waste. In the European dark ages, a period notorious for horrific epidemic disease that spread rapidly, infecting and killing large numbers of people, household waste was just thrown out of the window into the street below. Life expectancy was a mere thirty five years. It wasn't until the end of the first Great War, when indoor plumbing and sanitary waste removal began did our life expectancy soar to today's seventy five years. Most people think it is the "advances" in medicine that have increased our life expectancy; not so, public hygiene has been the real reason.

Traditional Chinese Medicine maintains that our bodies reflect the world around us. Therefore, our bodies are like a city and to be healthy must have their own efficient waste management facility. Your body has seven ways or departments which help remove waste in its facility. Your body's elimination channels include: lungs, liver, blood, colon, skin, kidneys, and lymphatic system. Your lymphatic system removes waste material and excess fluid in the deeper layers of your skin; allowing healthier

fluids and nutrients to enter thus promoting the healing and renewal process of your skin.

The word lymph comes from Latin means "clear water" and it is fluid and protein that has been squeezed out of blood plasma. The lymph is drained from tissues in lymph capillaries which are porous. These lymph vessels form a network throughout the body as a one-way flow draining lymph from the tissue and returning it to the blood.

Lymph nodes are the filters of lymph and the lymph structure is found in every part of the body except the central nervous system. Lymphatic tissue also helps control the ability of your body to defend you from bacteria, virus, fungus, and other enemies, which gives you immunity.

There is no muscular pumping organ connected with the lymphatic vessels to force lymph onward like the heart forces blood, still lymph moves slowly and steadily along its vessels. Lymph flows despite the fact that most of the flow is against gravity or "uphill". This is because of the large number of valves that permit fluid flow in one direction only. The movement is due to deep breathing and muscle contractions. Of course, those of you who are "couch potatoes", your lymph is not moving as it

should.

Lack of physical activity stagnates lymph in the nodes. Swollen glands, common with many illnesses is an example of lymph nodes enlarging in response to an infection such as virus or bacteria. A cat scratch can produce cat scratch disease and is one of the common causes of lymph node swelling in children. Swelling begins about 2 to 3 weeks after exposure and may persist for months.

The other most important function of your lymphatic system is to maintain the fluid balance of your body. Blood plasma filters into the spaces between cells or tissues. Much of this fluid is absorbed by tissue cells or reabsorbed by the blood before it flows out of the tissue. A small amount of fluid which is left behind can cause painful edema and destroy tissues. Limbs and breasts are common areas affected by blocked lymph. This problem is avoided by lymphatic vessels that act as "drains" to collect the excess fluid and return it to the blood before it reaches the heart.

Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD) is a therapy in which a trained practitioner uses gentle rhythmic pumping techniques to move the skin in the direction of the lymph flow. This specialized massage clears lymphatic blockages, eliminates metabolic wastes and toxins from the body, transports nutrients to cells

and increases metabolic efficiency, all adding to the reduction of excess fluid and assisting weight reduction. It also has a calming effect on the nervous system relieving stress and tension and on the face; it helps rejuvenate collagen fibers, reducing puffiness and improves the appearance of the skin.

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Get The Point! Today, more than ever, we are exposed to a vast number of toxins in our homes, work-

places, air, food and water. We are not as physically active, nor does the soft material of our clothes stimulate the movement of lymph. Legs, arms, fingers and toes swollen with fluid indicate a problem with our lymphatic system. This problem is aging us well before our time. While you're cleaning up home, neighborhood or city after the holiday or any other festivities, remember good hygiene begins with your own body. Come in for a lymphatic cleansing and make yours a tale of health.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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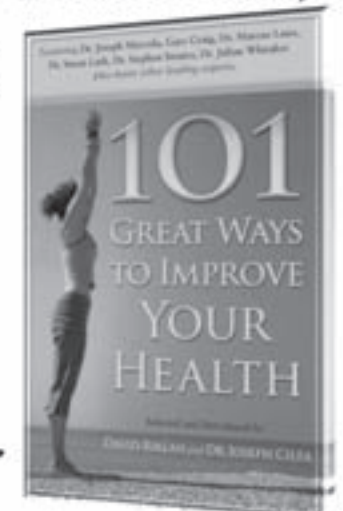


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EU in antitrust probe of Apple, e-book publishers

GABRIELE STEINHAUSER

AP Business Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's antitrust watchdog is probing whether Apple helped five major publishing houses illegally raise prices for e-books when it launched its iPad tablet and iBookstore in 2010.

The probe, announced Tuesday by the European Commission, offers a glimpse into the fierce fight for shares of the growing e-book market, especially as Apple has tried to take on Amazon and its Kindle e-book reader. It also highlights the struggle for profits between retailers and publishers, as more and more readers download books electronically.

In particular, the Commission is investigating a significant shift in the way the price of e-books is determined that occurred in 2010, just as Cupertino, California-based Apple introduced the iPad and its own online bookshop, iBookstore.

Apple was the first retailer that allowed publishers to move to so-called agency agreements, which let publishers set the price that online bookshops sell e-books to consumers. Until then, publishers were able to set the wholesale price of e-books, while retailers decided what price to sell them on to readers.

"The Commission has concerns that these practices may breach EU antitrust rules that prohibit cartels and restrictive business practices," the regulator said in a statement.

Giving publishers the power to set retail prices could effectively restrict competition between



In this Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2011 file photo and Apple logo is seen during an announcement at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

online bookshops, since it takes away individual retailers' powers to set lower prices. Since Apple's deal with the publishers, several other online retailers have also shifted to the agency model, possibly in an attempt to secure the rights to sell popular e-books.

The EU investigation targets publishers Hachette Livre, a

unit of France's Lagardere Publishing; Harper

Collins, owned by Rupert Murdoch's U.S.-based News Corp.; CBS Corp.'s Simon & Schuster; Penguin, which is owned by U.K. publishing house Pearson Group; and Germany's Verlagsgruppe Georg von Holtzbrinck, which owns Macmillan.

The Commission stressed

the probe was in its early stages and did not mean the companies actually broke EU competition law. It follows a similar investigation by Britain's Office of Fair Trading and a class action lawsuit against the same five publishers and Apple filed this summer in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

The U.K. agency on Tuesday closed its own probe, since the Commission has taken over the case, but said it was cooperating closely with the EU investigation. It said its investigation was triggered by several complaints, without naming any names.

Apple representative Bethan Lloyd said the company would decline to comment at this time.

Pearson said the fact that the Commission has opened a probe did not prejudice its outcome. "Pearson does not believe it has breached any laws, and will continue to fully and openly cooperate with the Commission," it said.

Holtzbrinck echoed that

statement, saying it found the Commission's case "without reason."

HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster said they are cooperating with the investigation, while Hachette Livre declined to comment.

The e-book market has been dominated by Amazon.com Inc. and its Kindle reader, with both Apple and Barnes & Noble's Nook reader fighting to break in.

In a summary of its complaint, the U.S. law firm Hagens Berman, which filed the U.S. class-action suit, claims that "Apple believed that it needed to neutralize the Kindle when it entered the e-book market with its own e-reader, the iPad, and feared that one day the Kindle might challenge the iPad by digitally distributing other media like music and movies."

The lawsuit also alleges that, following Apple's deals, Amazon was forced to abandon its discount pricing model and move to the agency model. □



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Dow ends up 52 on hopes for bailout powers

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 52 points following a report that European leaders are considering more aggressive programs to bail out weaker countries in the region.

Broader market indicators were mixed. The S&P 500 index rose 1 point and the Nasdaq composite edged lower. Materials and health care companies rose the most. Agricultural supplies company Monsanto Co. gained 2.8 percent; drug maker Pfizer Inc. added 2 percent.

Stocks were stuck in neutral for most of the day after Standard & Poor's said it might downgrade the AAA rating of Europe's bailout fund. A report in the Financial Times late in the afternoon sent the Dow up as many as 117 points. The newspaper reported that European leaders are considering making more financial aid available to struggling countries.

Investors remain cautious ahead of a summit of European leaders Thursday and Friday where the main task will be coming up with credible plans for preventing a simmering debt crisis from causing a breakup



Trader Edward Curran, right, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

of the euro, the currency shared by 17 European nations. Such a shock would likely cause a deep recession in Europe that would spread through the world economy.

"We are coming to a head in Europe, and it's no longer about the small countries like Greece," said Paul Zemsky, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management. He said current stock prices reflect traders' expectations of a rate cut from the European Central Bank on Thursday and strong political action on Friday. Any less that, he said, and "it's anyone's

guess show bad things will get, but they'll get pretty bad."

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 52.30 points, or 0.4 percent, at 12,150.13.

Among its top performers was 3M Co., which rose 1.5 percent after the maker of Post-It notes forecast 2012 earnings that were stronger than many analysts expected.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed up 1.39 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,258.47. The Nasdaq composite average closed down 6.20, or 0.2 percent, at 2,649.56.

U.S. stock indexes have

risen sharply from the lows they hit during a Thanksgiving-week drubbing. The S&P 500 is up 8.6 percent since Nov. 25, when it closed at 1,158.67.

Late Monday S&P said it might downgrade the debt of 15 countries that use the euro. The announcement, and S&P's followup statement Tuesday about possibly downgrading the European bailout fund, halted a rally in European markets. The impact on the market was muted, said Robert Tipp, chief investment strategist with Prudential Fixed Income, because investors are coming around to the

view that the European debt crisis may be through its worst phase. He noted that bond traders are willing to accept much lower yields on debt issued by nations such as Italy, whose borrowing costs spiked to dangerous levels in recent weeks.

"There's going to be volatility going forward, and it's going to be difficult for countries to follow their commitments, but I think you finally crossed that point where they took enough steps that the markets will get the message" that there is a credible crisis-rescue plan in the works, Tipp said.

In corporate news:

— Leap Wireless International Inc. rose 1 percent after the prepaid mobile phone company said it is buying spectrum in Chicago from Verizon Wireless and sell it spectrum bandwidth nationwide.

— Homebuilder Toll Brothers Inc. added 2.7 percent after it reported fiscal fourth-quarter earnings that beat analysts' expectations.

— Alpha Natural Resources Inc. fell 1.1 percent after the company agreed to pay more than \$200 million to avoid being sued over a 2010 mine disaster that killed 29 men. □

Greece approves austerity budget

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Greek lawmakers have approved next year's austerity budget, extending tough spending cuts that have sparked a series of often violent protests.

The 2012 budget passed early Wednesday foresees a fourth year of recession, but also projects a modest primary surplus — a surplus excluding interest payments on debt — for the first time in years.

Debt-crippled Greece's financial woes have roiled



A general view of a parliament session as Greek Prime minister speaks, about the next year's state budget, in Athens, on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011. Greece's lawmakers on Tuesday passed next year's austerity budget, extending tough spending cuts measures that have already left Greeks struggling as the country tries to slash its debts and pull itself out of a severe recession.
(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

the euro, with Europe's single currency facing its largest crisis since it went into circulation in 2002.

The country has been relying for financial survival on billions of euros (dollars) in rescue loans from other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund since May 2010. In return, Greece cut pensions and salaries while repeatedly hiking taxes to reduce its bloated budget deficits. □





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Why S&P wields so much power in European crisis

BERNARD CONDON
CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Until this week, the fate of Europe seemed to hang on the decisions of three power brokers — the president of France, the chancellor of Germany and the head of the European Central Bank. Add a surprising fourth: Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency. S&P ripped into American politicians last summer for failing to address long-term debt and stripped the United States of its top-flight credit rating. Now it is essentially warning Europe to fix its debt problem — or else. Critics of S&P have questioned its credibility and relevance because it failed to foresee the collapse in the U.S. subprime mortgage market, which helped trigger the financial meltdown of 2008. But what S&P says about the creditworthiness of European countries, or just about any other financial entity, still matters a great deal. S&P rates companies and governments by their ability to repay debt. The higher the rating — AAA is the highest — the more investors trust them, and the less interest companies or governments have to pay to borrow money. S&P threatened to lower its rating on 15 nations — even Germany, the most powerful economy in Europe — if their leaders don't agree on a tough response to the European debt crisis. Borrowing costs for European countries were little changed after S&P's announcement, which came Monday night Europe time. But ratings cuts later could force countries to pay higher interest rates on



French President Nicolas Sarkozy waves goodbye to German Chancellor Angela Merkel as she leaves the Elysee Palace following their meeting in Paris, Monday Dec. 5, 2011. Until this week, the fate of Europe seemed to hang on the decisions of three power brokers — the president of France, the chancellor of Germany and the head of the European Central Bank. Add a surprising fourth: Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency. S&P ripped into American politicians last summer for failing to address long-term debt and stripped the United States of its top-flight credit rating. Now it is essentially warning Europe to fix its debt problem — or else.

(AP Photo/Remy de la Mauviniere)

the national bonds they issue to investors, creating a dangerous debt spiral and pushing them closer to default. In a debt spiral, a country is forced to put aside an ever larger share of its budget for interest. That leaves less for everything else, and the country has to borrow even more to make up the difference — or cut services, hurting the economy. S&P's warning drew angry responses from some European officials who are scrambling to contain the crisis, and outrage from critics who say S&P plays an outsize role in markets. "It still has enormous power," said Michael Lewitt, a former money manager who pilloried credit raters in his book "□

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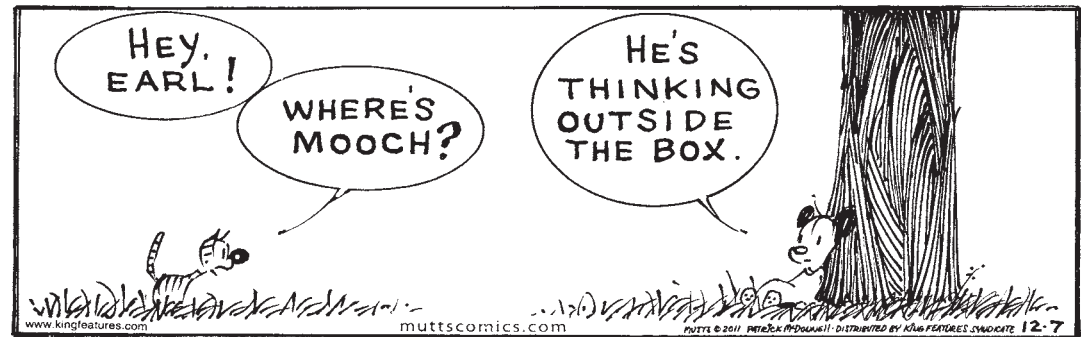
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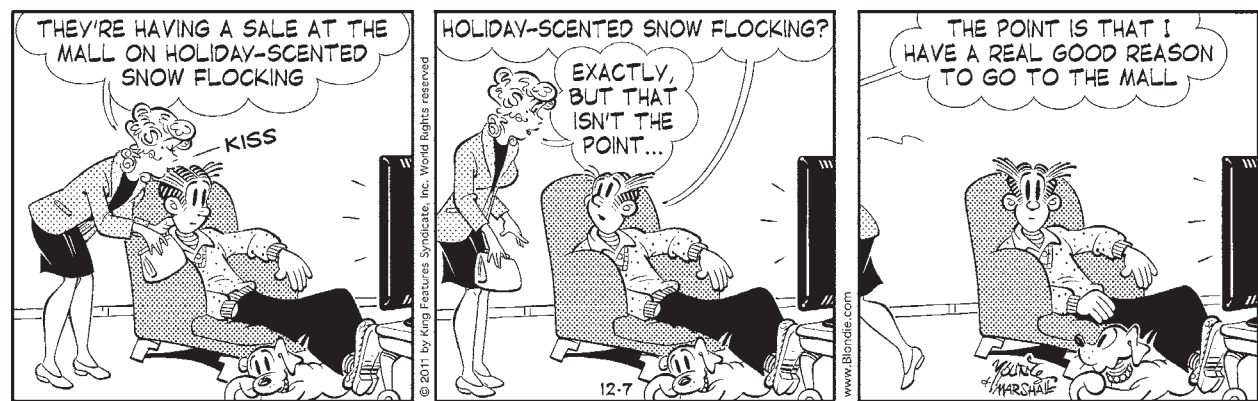
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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		4	6					
				4				
		1	5	3	7	6		
	3			2			5	
1								8
8								4
5								9
	2			8			3	
		6	2		1	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★

12/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	6	5	9	1	3	2	7	4
4	1	9	2	7	5	3	8	6
2	3	7	6	8	4	9	1	5
6	8	2	1	3	9	4	5	7
3	9	4	7	5	6	1	2	8
5	7	1	8	4	2	6	9	3
9	4	8	3	2	7	5	6	1
1	5	6	4	9	8	7	3	2
7	2	3	5	6	1	8	4	9

ACROSS

- 1 Lawn border trimming tool
- 6 Grand __; bridge coup
- 10 Upper area in a barn
- 14 Poem stanza
- 15 Lima's nation
- 16 Finished
- 17 Gives off, as rays
- 18 Sowing one's wild __
- 19 "The __ Ranger"
- 20 Turning motion
- 22 Unite two wires
- 24 Fish __; aquarium
- 25 Ridiculed
- 26 Spain's dollar before the euro
- 29 Flower from Holland
- 30 "Much __ About Nothing"
- 31 Follow
- 33 Trenches around castles
- 37 Actress Bonet
- 39 Our planet
- 41 Entreaty
- 42 Short & stocky
- 44 Tiny map in a larger map
- 46 Choke
- 47 Football team's attempts
- 49 Recapture
- 51 __ for Humanity; home-building group
- 54 Flying insect
- 55 Gives a speech
- 56 Mosque towers
- 60 Metric weight
- 61 Head covering
- 63 Cheese-topped tortilla chip
- 64 Drug addict
- 65 Miscalculates
- 66 Theater guide
- 67 Disarray
- 68 Fender blemish
- 69 Glowed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15					16	
17						18					19	
20					21			22	23			
24							25					
26	27	28					29					
30				31		32			33		34	35
36												36
37			38			39			40		41	
42				43			44			45		46
47									49		50	
51	52	53						54				
55							56				57	58
59												59
60						61	62			63		
64							65				66	
67							68				69	

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/7/11

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

DEBT	SMACK	ARMS
ODOR	COCOA	NEIL
NINE	ROTOR	TAKE
STELLAR	TABORED	
LOP	PITON	
REMIX	BEE	AIDED
ORES	AIR	TROUPE
ANN	ARDUOUS	BIN
DISARM	SIB	FACT
SEATS	PAL	BLISS
LOYAL	BOA	
IMPANEL	BEWITCH	
SEAS	AARON	LUAU
LACE	SCALD	ENDS
ELKS	TENDS	DASH

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- 40 Wading bird
- 43 Carry
- 45 __ shot; wound victim's need
- 48 Bathed
- 50 Beat soundly
- 51 Nonsense
- 52 Get up
- 53 Hay bundles
- 54 In the __ of; among
- 56 Dawn
- 57 Resound
- 58 Now and __; occasionally
- 59 Painful to the touch
- 62 Mine car load

Today In History

The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, Dec. 7, the 341st day of 2011. There are 24 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1787 - Delaware becomes the first state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

1815 - France's Marshal Ney is shot after a treason trial for aiding Napoleon Bonaparte at Waterloo.

1842 - The New York Philharmonic gives its first concert.

1858 - French and Spanish announce blockade of Cochin, China.

1895 - Ethiopians defeat Italians at Ambia Alagi, Abyssinia.

1901 - England and Italy agree on settling Sudan frontier.

1917 - The U.S. declares war on Austro-Hungary.

1921 - Austria and United States resume diplomatic relations.

1922 - Northern Ireland votes for nonalignment in Irish Free State.

1940 - The British attack larger Italian forces in Libya by surprise, capturing 40,000 prisoners in three days.

1941 - Japanese air forces attack the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

1944 - The United States formally announces all six Japanese aircraft carriers involved in the attack on Pearl Harbor were sunk.

1949 - Nationalist government of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, fleeing the Communist takeover of mainland China, establishes its seat of government in Taiwan.

1953 - David Ben-Gurion resigns as premier of Israel.

1962 - Forty-two Soviet IL-28 jets, believed to be the entire bomber fleet sent to Cuba, is observed on the decks of Russian ships leaving the island's ports.

1965 - Pope Paul VI and ecumenical patriarch Athenagoras I of Istanbul abolish the mutual excommunication of 1054 that split Christianity into Catholic and Orthodox.

1971 - Unmanned Soviet space capsule sends back



Today is Ellen Burstyn's birthday

radio and television signals from Mars.

1972 - Imelda Marcos, wife of Philippines' President Ferdinand Marcos, is slashed during public ceremony in Manila by man who is killed at the scene of the incident.

1974 - Archbishop Makarios returns to Cyprus after five

months in exile, and says he will pardon those who plotted his overthrow.

1975 - Indonesia invades East Timor and annexes the region as its 27th province.

1982 - Convicted murderer Charlie Brooks becomes the first U.S. prisoner executed by injection, at a prison in Huntsville, Texas.

1988 - Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, at the United Nations, announces unilateral reduction of his country's troops, tanks, combat aircraft and artillery; massive earthquake in Soviet Armenia claims at least 25,000 lives.

1989 - Republic of Lithuania abolishes constitutional guarantee of communist supremacy and legalizes multiparty system.

Today's Birthdays:

Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587); Pietro Mascagni, Italian composer (1863-1945); Seigo Takamori, Japanese Restoration hero (1827-1877); Willa Cather, U.S. novelist (1873-1947); Mario Soares, first elected president of Portugal in 60 years (1924--); Noam Chomsky, American linguist and political activist (1928--); Ellen Burstyn, U.S. actress (1932--)

Thought For Today:

Any frontal attack on ignorance is bound to fail because the masses are always ready to defend their most precious possession — their ignorance — Hendrik Willem van Loon, Dutch-American journalist and lecturer (1882-1944). □

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Foundation Amor pa Prohimo
 Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976
Women in Difficulties Foundation
 Tel: 583-5400

Planet in sweet spot of Goldilocks zone for life

This undated handout artist rendering provided by NASA shows Kepler-22b, a planet known to comfortably circle in the habitable zone of a sun-like star. Associated Press



SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A newly discovered planet is eerily similar to Earth and is sitting outside Earth's solar system in what seems to be the ideal place for life, except for one hitch. It is a bit too big. The planet is smack in the middle of what astronomers call the Goldilocks zone, that hard to find place that is not too hot, not too cold, where water, which is essential for life, does not freeze or boil.

And it has a shopping mall-like surface temperature of near 72 degrees, scientists say.

The planet's confirmation was announced Monday by NASA along with other discoveries by its Kepler telescope, which was launched on a planet-hunting mission in 2009. That is the first planet confirmed in the habitable zone for Kepler, which already had found Earth-like rocky planets elsewhere. Twice before astronomers have announced a planet

found in that zone, but neither has been as promising. "This is a phenomenal discovery in the course of human history," Geoff Marcy of University of California, Berkeley, one of the pioneers of planet-hunting outside Earth's solar system, said in an email. "This discovery shows that we Homo sapiens are straining our reach into the universe to find planets that remind us of home. We are almost there." The new planet, named Kepler-22b, has key aspects it shares with Earth. It circles a star that could be the twin of Earth's sun and at just about the same distance. The planet's year of 290 days is even close to Earth's. It probably has water and rock.

The only trouble is the planet's a bit big for life to exist on the surface. The planet is about 2.4 times the size of Earth. It could be more like the gas-and-liquid Neptune with only a rocky core and mostly ocean.

"It's so exciting to imagine the possibilities," said Natalie Batalha, the Kepler deputy science chief. Floating on that "world completely covered in water" could be like being on an Earth ocean and "it's not beyond the realm of possibility that life could exist in such an ocean," Batalha said in a phone interview. □

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Restraining order granted against Terrence Howard

ANTHONY McCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Terrence Howard was ordered Tuesday to stay 100 yards (90 meters) away from his estranged wife after she claimed the Oscar-nominated actor repeatedly threatened and hit her during their marriage. The star denies the allegations. Superior Court Judge Scott Gordon granted the stay-away order sought by Michelle Howard after she filed a lengthy declaration alleging abuse began within a week of the couple's January 2010 marriage. Michelle Howard filed for divorce a year later. The restraining order remains in effect until a Jan. 17 court hearing. In a text message last week, she claims Howard, 42, has repeatedly hit her and threatened her. She stated



In this Feb. 26, 2011 file photo, actor Terrence Howard arrives at the Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, Calif. Associated Press

in a sworn declaration that she is in constant fear of Howard and has chronic health issues caused by the actor's treatment. Howard in his own sworn declaration wrote that he has never threatened his wife and that she has repeatedly vowed to ruin his reputation and release private details. "I live in constant fear of Michelle's endeavors to ruin my reputation; even providing this declaration may well lead to my being subjected to a paparazzi blitz which would not be good for my career," Howard wrote. □

Alec Baldwin kicked off LA flight for playing game

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Alec Baldwin has been kicked off a plane at Los Angeles International Airport for having words with a flight attendant over a word game he was playing on his cellphone. Baldwin's spokesman, Matthew Hiltzik, says the "30 Rock" actor was asked to get off a New York City-bound flight for playing "Words with Friends" while the plane idled at a gate Tuesday. Baldwin took to Twitter to vent, saying a flight attendant had reamed him. Sgt. Belinda Nettles says airport police did not respond to the incident. Hiltzik says Baldwin took another American Airlines flight to New York.



Baldwin tweeted that it would be his last flight with the airline, and that "Words With Friends" is an addicting game. American Airlines did not provide an immediate response. □

Lady Gaga discusses anti-bullying at White House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lady Gaga visited the White House on Tuesday to discuss bullying prevention. The pop singer met with Obama administration staffers on the issue and afterward, Obama senior adviser Valerie Jarrett praised the star as "a source of strength for many young people who feel isolated and scared at their schools."

"Lady Gaga has described this cause as a personal one — she has said that as a child, she was often picked on for being different," Jarrett wrote in a blog post on the White House website. "I am deeply moved by the way she has used her story, and her success, to inspire young people, and shine the spotlight on important issues."

Gaga did not have a chance to meet with Presi-



Singer Lady Gaga appears at a ribbon cutting ceremony to launch Gaga's Workshop, a holiday retail experience representing Lady Gaga's reinterpretation of Santa's workshop at Barneys department store in New York, Monday, Nov. 21, 2011. A portion of the sales from Gaga's Workshop will be donated to the Born This Way Foundation. Associated Press

dent Barack Obama, who was traveling in Kansas for a speech on the economy. The two have met before, when the singer attended a fundraiser for Obama's re-election campaign in California this year. Gaga was spotted by news crews as she exited the White House grounds Tuesday afternoon dressed all in white, including sky-high white heels, with her long blond hair down. The White House held an anti-bullying conference earlier this year. The administration estimates that bullying affects 13 million students, or about a third of those attending school. Jarrett said the administration looked forward to supporting Gaga's Born This Way Foundation, to explore how to change the culture and policies around children in school. □



In this March 19, 2011 photo, Miss USA Rima Fakih arrives to the 22nd Annual GLAAD Media Awards in New York. Associated Press

JEFF KAROUB
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The first Arab American winner of the Miss USA pageant was driving with a half-empty bottle of champagne and

Police: Ex-Miss USA was above legal alcohol limit

a blood-alcohol level more than twice the legal limit when she was arrested on a drunken driving charge, according to a police report released Tuesday. The report obtained by The Associated Press through a Freedom of Information Act request says the 26-year-old former Miss USA Rima Fakih was pulled over early Saturday going 60 mph (96 kph) and weaving in heavy traffic. A police officer whose name was given only as R. Kalis reported that Fakih was driving a black 2011 Jaguar. The "driver immediately identified herself as Miss USA and stated that she was driving a friend's car," Kalis' report said. Kalis said Fakih "appeared disoriented and had very slurred speech while fumbling for her purse." Kalis asked Fakih if she had been drinking, and she said, "No, not at all." In the report, officers said they found an open and half-empty bottle of Moet

& Chandon champagne on the floorboard behind the driver's seat. "I swear, I didn't know it was open," Fakih told Kalis, according to the report. Two breath tests showed a 0.19 percent and a 0.20 percent blood-alcohol level. Michigan law defines drunkenness at a level of 0.08 percent. The report said Fakih was handcuffed and taken to a police station, where she was held until she was sober enough to be released. Phone and email messages were left for Fakih and her lawyer on Tuesday. Fakih, who was born in Lebanon, won the Miss USA Pageant in 2010. Her reign ended earlier this year. While still holding the Miss USA title, Fakih became a contestant on the USA Network's "WWE Tough Enough" show. The show started with 12 men and women competing to be professional wrestlers. Fakih was voted off the show in the episode broadcast April 25. □

'Frozen Planet' to debut on Discovery on March 18

NEW YORK (AP)—Discovery Channel's documentary series "Frozen Planet" will premiere March 18, and will encompass seven episodes including a program on climate change hosted by David Attenborough. On that seventh episode, the famed British naturalist will investigate what rising temperatures will mean for the planet and life on it. The network made the announcement Tuesday. "Frozen Planet" is described as "the ultimate portrait of our Earth's polar regions." A co-production of Discovery Channel and BBC, it was



In this undated image released by Discovery Channel, a mother polar bear and two cubs are shown during the filming of Discovery Channel's documentary series "Frozen Planet," premiering March 18, 2012. The series will encompass seven episodes including a program on climate change hosted by David Attenborough.

Associated Press

four years in the making and comes from the team behind "Planet Earth," the acclaimed series that aired on Discovery in 2007. The "Frozen Planet" team filmed in every nation inside the Arctic and Antarctic Circles during 2,356 days in the field, 1 1/2 years at sea, more than six months

on the sea ice and 134 hours beneath that ice, according to Discovery. Among the sights: the birth of an iceberg bigger than the largest building on Earth, a caterpillar with antifreeze in its veins and tiny baby polar bears, which at birth are 25 percent smaller than human babies. □



In this Aug. 29, 2010 file photo, Michael C. Hall arrives with wife and co-star Jennifer Carpenter for the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

'Dexter' co-stars Hall and Carpenter divorce final

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A judge has finalized an uncontested divorce between Michael C. Hall and his "Dexter" co-star Jennifer Carpenter. Court records show Superior Court Judge John Sandoz finalized the divorce on Friday in Los Angeles. Carpenter filed for divorce nearly a year ago, citing irreconcilable differences. Hall and Carpenter married in December 2008. Court filings state the details of the division of property will remain confidential. □

Musical based on film 'Once' will leap to Broadway

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The musical based on the Academy Award-winning film "Once" is falling slowly onto Broadway. Producers announced Tuesday that the show, which has been playing downtown at New York Theatre Workshop, will play Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre this spring. The musical ends its off-Broadway run Jan. 15. "Once" features music and lyrics by Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova, who won the 2008 best original song Oscar for "Falling Slowly."

The film and musical tell the story of an Irish street musician who falls for a Czech flower-seller in Dublin. The book is by Enda Walsh. Broadway previews will begin Feb. 28 with an opening night set for March 18. □

Resurgent soul singer Howard Tate dies at 72

GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

TRENTON, New Jersey (AP) — Soul singer Howard Tate, who got a second chance at a musical career three decades after being derailed by disputes with industry executives, personal tragedy and drug addiction, has died at age 72. Tate died Friday of natural causes at his apartment in Burlington City, county medical examiner's spokes-

her version of "Respect" climbed the charts in 1967. Legendary Philadelphia disc jockey Jerry Blavat called Tate "a major Philly star."

"He truly was a street singer who captured the soul and feel of Philly back in the day," Blavat said Tuesday. But within a decade, Tate had walked away from his career, disillusioned that he wasn't getting the royalties he thought he deserved. He took up a new career selling insurance in suburban Philadelphia.

"I got rid of my own records, and I didn't listen to other people's records because I didn't want to flash back," he told The Associated Press in a 2003 interview.

Then, he said, tragedy struck: A daughter died in a fire, and his marriage fell apart. He drank heavily, then became addicted to crack and other drugs and ended up homeless in Camden. By the mid-1990s, he got clean and decided to become a minister. He eventually led a congregation in Willingboro.

Around that time, Tate's 1967 album "Get It While You Can," considered a classic by soul aficionados, was reissued on CD. On the liner notes, Ragovoy wrote that the singer was probably dead.

In 2001, a chance meeting at a grocery store between Tate and a former member of Harold Melvin's Blue Notes tipped off the music world that he was alive.

And in 2003, he returned to the recording studio — Ragovoy's Atlanta studio — to make "Rediscovered," which was nominated for a Grammy for best contemporary blues record the next year.

At the time, Ragovoy was amazed that his protege's voice sounded the same as it had 30 years earlier — maybe better.

Tate said he believed it was "a call from God" that brought him back to the music industry he had "hated and despised so bad." □



In this Aug. 1, 2003 file photo, soul singer Howard Tate, 63, poses for a picture during an interview at his home in Vincentown, N.J.

Associated Press

man Ralph Shrom said. Tate was born in Macon, Georgia, and grew up in Philadelphia, where as a teenager he sang with the doo-wop group The Gainors. He was a rising star in the music world who later suffered through decades of such extreme darkness that his long-time producer figured he was dead before having a career resurgence and receiving a Grammy nomination in 2004. In the late 1960s and early '70s, Tate had three top 20 R&B hits, including "Get It While You Can," written by his longtime producer Jerry Ragovoy and made more famous by Janis Joplin. Ragovoy, who died this year after a career producing artists including Dusty Springfield and Dionne Warwick, saw Tate as the artist who gave voice to the sounds he wanted to make. At his early peak, Tate toured the chitlin circuit with Aretha Franklin as

The wonky liberal



DAVID BROOKS

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Republicans have many strong arguments to make against the Obama administration, but one major criticism doesn't square with the evidence. This is the charge that President Barack Obama is running a virulently anti-business administration that spews out a steady flow of job- and economy-crushing regulations.

In the first place, Obama has certainly not shut corporate-types out of the regulatory process. According to data collected by the Center for Progressive Reforms, 62 percent of the people who met with the White House office in charge of reviewing regulations were representatives of industry, while only 16 percent represented activist groups. At these meetings, business representatives outnumbered activists by more than 4 to 1. Nor is it true that the administration is blindly doing the bidding of the liberal activist groups. On the contrary, the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs and its administrator, Cass Sunstein, have been the subject of withering attacks from the left. The organization Think Progress says the office is "appalling." Mother Jones magazine is on the warpath. The Huffington Post published a long article studded with negative comments from unions and environmental activists.

If you step back and try to get some non-hysterical perspective, you come to the following conclusion: This is a Democratic administration. Many of the major agency jobs are held by people who come out of the activist community who are not sensitive to the costs they are imposing on the economy. Obama has a political and philosophical incentive to restrain their enthusiasm. He has, therefore, supported a strong review agency in the White House that does rigorous cost-benefit analyses to review proposed

regulations and minimize their economic harm.

This office, under Sunstein, is incredibly wonky. It is composed of career number-crunchers of no known ideological bent who try to measure the trade-offs inherent in regulatory action. Deciding among these trade-offs involves relying on both values and data. This office has tried to elevate the role of data so that every close call is not just a matter of pleasing the right ideological army.

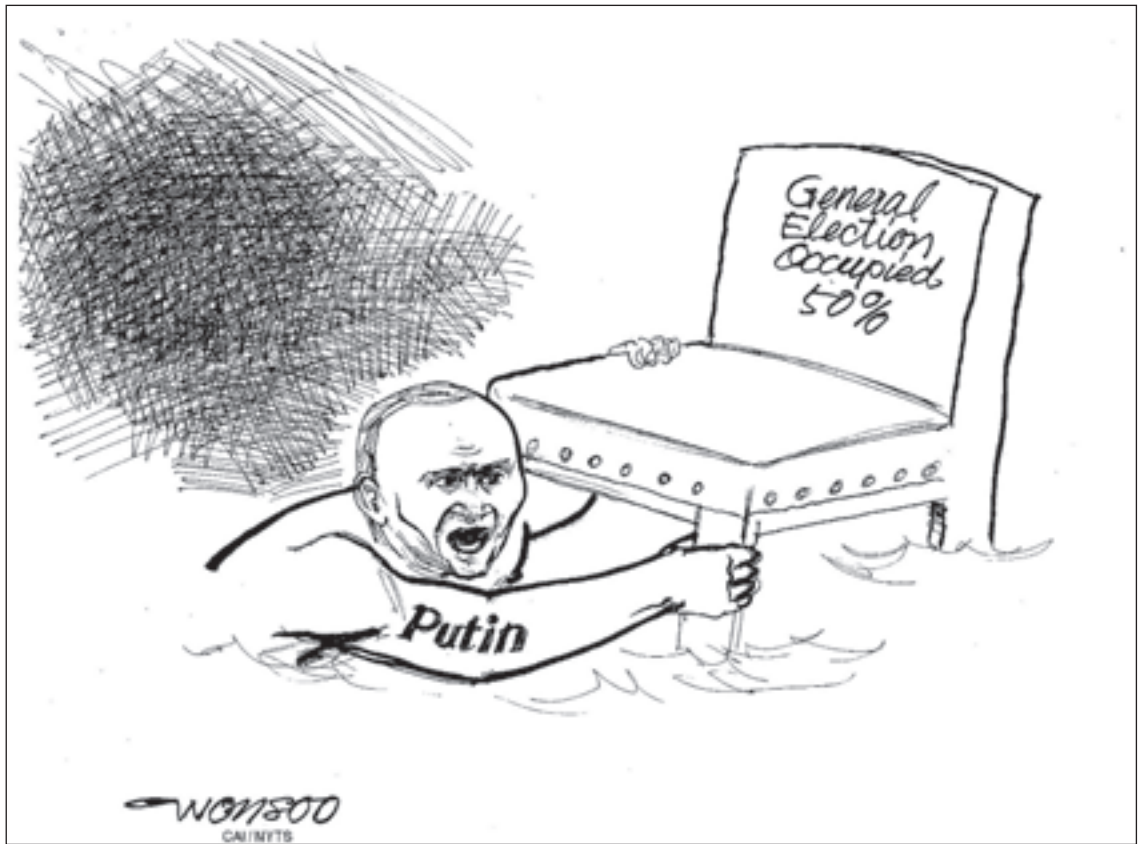
Overall, the Obama administration has significantly increased the regulatory costs imposed on the economy. But this is a difference of degree, not of kind.

During the final year of their administration, presidents generally issue tons of new rules. 1988, under Ronald Reagan; 1992, under George H.W. Bush; and 2008, under George W. Bush, were monster years for new regulations. In his first years, Obama has not increased regulatory costs more than Reagan and the Bushes did in their final years. Data collected by Bloomberg News suggest that the Obama White House has actually reviewed 5 percent fewer rules than George W. Bush's did at a similar point in his presidency. What has increased is the cost of those rules.

George W. Bush issued regulations over eight years that cost about \$60 billion. During its first two years, the Obama regulations cost between \$8 billion and \$16.5 billion, according to estimates by the administration itself, and \$40 billion according to data collected, more broadly, by the Heritage Foundation. That's a significant step up, as you'd expect when comparing Republican to Democratic administrations, but it is not a socialist onslaught.

Nor is it clear that these additional regulations have had a huge effect on the economy. Over the past 40 years, small business leaders have eloquently complained about the regulatory burden. And they are right to. But it's not clear that regulations are a major contributor to the current period of slow growth. The Bureau of Labor Statistics asks companies why they have laid off workers. Only 13 percent said regulations were a major factor. That number has not increased in the past few years. According to the bureau, roughly 0.18 percent of the mass layoffs in the first half of 2011 were attributable to regulations.

Some of the industries that are the subject of the new rules,



Dr. Berwick's pink slip



JOE NOCERA

© 2011 New York Times

Dr. Donald Berwick was in Massachusetts when I spoke to him Sunday afternoon. He was back in the Newton home where he'd lived for 30 years, being pleasantly interrupted during our conversation by his 2-year-old grandson. His last day in Washington as the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services had been Thursday. Friday was packing day. Saturday was moving day. And, by Sunday, he was talking about his too-short, 17-month tenure as the nation's top Medicare official in the past tense. Which, alas, it was.

Berwick, I'm here to tell you, was the most qualified person in the country to run Medicare at this critical juncture, and the fact that he is no longer in the job is the country's loss. Berwick started out as a pediatrician and health care researcher at the Harvard School of Public Health and eventually became vice president of the Harvard Community Health Plan (now known as the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care). There,

he became enamored with the ideas being promulgated by management gurus like W. Edwards Deming and companies like Toyota, which believed that companies could create processes – and a mindset – that would allow for both continuous improvement and continuous cost reduction. Indeed, they believed that the two went hand in hand.

Latching onto these ideas, Berwick helped start – and, for the next 19 years, run – the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, which was devoted to applying them to health care. The result would be healthier patients who spent less time in hospitals – and a culture that wasted less money on things that didn't lead directly to a healthier population.

As the insurer of one out of every three Americans, Medicare is in an enviable position to push for health care improvements, if it chooses to. And with a budget larger than the Pentagon's – and a consensus that its spending must be brought under control – no government agency has a more urgent need to cut costs. Surely somebody who has spent his career focused on these two issues would seem to be just the ticket.

But there's one more thing about Berwick: He believes that President Barack Obama's health care reform is "an important moral step toward universal health care." As he put it when we spoke: "Because of it, our country is, at last, making health care a basic human right. It is a majestic thing."

Naturally, this view made him

anathema to Republicans, who blocked his nomination in the usual way. They pored through his old speeches and articles, plucked out a few comments they objected to – he once praised the British health care system! – and announced that they would never confirm him.

Obama was not deterred the way he had been when Republicans objected to Elizabeth Warren becoming the chief of the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Instead, in July 2010, Obama named Berwick to the post in a recess appointment that did not require Senate confirmation. But, like all recess appointments, it was temporary. Berwick left the post just weeks before his appointment was set to expire. What did Berwick accomplish in those 17 months? A lot – though not nearly as much as he would have liked to. His focus, as it has always been, was on improving the quality of health care and cutting costs. "On my third day," he said, "I held a staff meeting for all 5,000 members of the staff, and I said, 'You all think that you are in the business of paying bills. Yes, you do that. But I also think Medicare can be a force for change.'" He added, "I tried to reconceptualize it as an improvement organization." As Berwick tells it – and others affirm – the Medicare staff had been hungering for such a mission. "We had a triple aim," he says. "Better health care. Better health for the overall population. And lower costs. I thought that, my goodness, given the resources and the reach – and the great

At the end of the night, pasta satisfaction

DAVID TANIS

© 2011 New York Times

Pasta at midnight. It's not a new idea, but it's definitely worth remembering, rediscovering or reinventing. The concept is rather simple. Hunger, pasta, problem solved. Known in Italy as spaghetтата di mezzanotte, a late-night meal for revelers who are famished, sometimes it is served much later, in the wee hours of the morning.

For that matter, though, it's a good trick to have up your sleeve at other times, too. Say you've been to a holiday cocktail party or two. There were snacks but nothing substantial or really all that appealing. Perhaps you went to a show, and later for a drink, only to realize no nearby restaurant is one you're inclined to visit. In addition, you remember that lunch, so long ago, was a snack, some Christmas cookies from a tray at work.



The recipe ingredients for pasta with anchovies and capers, in New York. Despite the many options for late-night dining, cooking at home may be the best choice.

(Evan Sung/The New York Times)

Suddenly you're starving. Even though there are options for some kind of dining (after-hours places, mediocre take-out, a slice of indifferent pizza, a taco truck), my advice is to go home and cook.

There's something about pasta, cooked properly,

that trumps all the other possibilities. And the smell of pasta boiling is a heady cheap thrill.

With a few basic staple pantry items, a true feast can be ready in minutes. Good spaghetti, good olive oil, garlic and a little red pepper are all you need, plus

some anchovy and capers if you have them. (I prefer salt-packed anchovies and capers, but anchovies in oil and capers in brine are fine.) If you cook it al dente, even grated cheese is unnecessary.

Sure, if you're suddenly ambitious, you could whip up a carbonara or a puttanesca, or an impromptu creation from leftovers in the fridge. But for me, midnight pasta is all about simplicity.

MIDNIGHT PASTA WITH GARLIC, ANCHOVY, CAPERS AND RED PEPPER

Time: 15 to 20 minutes

1/2 pound spaghetti

Salt

3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

4 garlic cloves, peeled and roughly chopped

4 anchovy filets, rinsed and roughly chopped

1 tablespoon capers, rinsed and roughly chopped

1/2 teaspoon red pepper

flakes, or to taste

2 tablespoons chopped parsley, optional
Parmesan for grating, optional. ^

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1. Put the spaghetti in a large pot of well-salted rapidly boiling water and cook only until firmly al dente. (Depending on the brand of pasta, this will be 8 to 10 minutes, but check frequently to see.)

2. While the pasta is cooking, warm the olive oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and cook for about 1 minute, without letting it brown. Stir in the anchovies, capers and red pepper and cook for a half-minute more, then turn off the heat.

3. Drain the pasta and return it to the pot. Pour in the garlic mixture, add the parsley, if using, and toss well to coat. Serve with grated Parmesan if desired.

Yield: 2 servings. □

Experimenting with a holiday favorite

MELISSA CLARK

© 2011 New York Times

In my pre-motherhood years, I approached the holidays like some buttercrazed elf, creating a sugary mountain of dainty morsels. I'd tint royal icing in a dozen hues, dredge up the dragees, pipe out decorations.

I served platters of colorful, glittering cookies at the end of many a holiday party.

And I handed them out as Christmas gifts to everyone who crossed my path during the month of December — all random delivery men included.

These days, with a small child in the house, two or three kinds of cookies are all I have time for.

So I choose them carefully, selecting one easy family favorite that I can decorate (usually gingerbread), one crowd pleaser that I can make quickly in bulk (large pans of brownies or shortbread fill the bill), and one wild card that I've never made before to appease my yen for experimentation. This year, my wild card is linzer cookies — with a twist. I've happily baked the classic nut-studded, highly

spiced, jam-filled cookies many times before. But all that cinnamon in the mix makes them seem too similar to the gingerbread I was also planning to bake.

Instead I wanted to come up with a recipe that preserves the nutty, jammy essence of the cookie but alters the flavor profile.

My first change was to replace the usual hazelnuts or almonds with pistachio nuts. Not only do they dot the cookies with pretty green flecks, but I also love their gentle sweetness and freshness. Then I added orange-blossom water to accentuate the brightness of the pistachios. And, instead of raspberry jam, I sandwiched orange marmalade between the rounds to bring out the orange-blossom water.

This sandwiching is best done right before serving the cookies, or maybe up to a day ahead. Any more than that and the cookies soften and start to fall apart as they absorb the moisture from the jam.

All in all, my linzer cookies were much tangier and a bit less sweet than the traditional ones, but just as but-



Pistachio Linzer Cookies.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

tery, rich and compelling. They will also contrast nicely with the gingerbread and the brownies on my cookie platter — which is much more modest than it's been in the past. But just as much fun.

PISTACHIO LINZER COOKIES WITH ORANGE MARMALADE

Time: 1 hour 15 minutes, plus chilling

2 cups raw pistachios (285 grams)

1 1/2 cups (339 grams) unsalted butter, room temperature

1 3/4 cups confectioners' sugar (128 grams)

1 large egg

1 teaspoon orange-blossom water

2 cups all-purpose flour (276 grams)

1 cup cornstarch (152 grams)

1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1 teaspoon orange zest

1/2 teaspoon grated nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt

1/8 teaspoon ground clove

1 cup orange marmalade.

1. In a food processor, finely grind the pistachios. Add the butter and 1 cup sugar and pulse to combine. Pulse in the egg and orange-blossom water.

2. In a small bowl, combine the flour, cornstarch, cinnamon, orange zest, nutmeg, salt and clove. Add to the food processor and pulse until the mixture forms a moist dough. Divide dough in half and flatten each half into a disk. Wrap tightly with plastic and refrigerate 4 to 6 hours.

3. Place parchment paper on three large baking sheets. (If you don't have three, roll out the dough in smaller batches and keep the rest refrigerated.) Take one disk of dough and roll it out on a floured surface to 1/4-inch thickness. Cut into 3-inch rounds, and transfer to a prepared baking sheet. Use a 1 1/2-inch cutter to stamp out a hole from the center of half (not all) of the

cookies (this will form the "window" for the cookies).

Transfer the smaller cookies to a prepared sheet. Repeat with the remaining dough. Gently combine and reroll any scraps. You will have three shapes of cookies on the cookie sheets: rings, large round cookies and small round cookies. Wrap each tray with plastic and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

4. Heat the oven to 325 degrees. Bake cookies until just golden, about 15 minutes for the small rounds, and 18 to 22 minutes for the larger cookies. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

5. Put the marmalade in a microwave-safe bowl; microwave for 20 seconds and stir, until it's warm and easier to spread. Or heat slowly in a small pot over low heat. Spread each large round cookie with marmalade. Top with a large ring-shaped cookie. Spread half the small round cookies with marmalade and top with the remaining small round cookies. Generously dust all cookies with the rest of the confectioners' sugar.

Yield: About 18 large cookies and 9 small cookies. □